Dimaano is MINA's environmental champ. PAGE 3
Triple J donates $10K to CCA, Make-A-Wish. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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Tourists go down the stairs at the Bird Island Lookout in Marpi to take photos of the beautiful Bird Island yesterday morning, shortly after Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services swimmers recovered the body of drowning victim Aiwayne Sagun.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Man drowns at Bird Island

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Victim asked girlfriend to take video of him jumping into water, swimming**

In a scene that was caught on video, a man who had jumped into the waters of Bird Island in Marpi on Saturday afternoon was swept out into the ocean by the strong current and was later found to have drowned.

Rescue swimmers from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services found yesterday morning the body of a 21-year-old man. DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde identified the victim as Aiwayne Sagun.

Police said the victim had asked his girlfriend to take a video of him jumping into the water and swimming to shore, but he failed to swim

See MAN on Page 4

Delta pulling out of Guam?

Delta Air Lines is reportedly pulling out from Guam by the end of this year and customers trying to book round-trip flights to the U.S. territory beyond 2018 are being directed to other carriers.

Saipan Tribune sources affirmed rumors about the Guam pullout, but flights to Saipan remain unaffected. There was no immediate statement from Delta about the rumor.

A Guam resident confirmed reports that are circulating about Delta pulling out from Guam, but no definite reason has been given as of press time.

A customer tried to book a Guam-Narita flight in February 2018 online, but the computer

See DELTA on Page 4

Budget bill heads to Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Record 3-day conference committee negotiations**

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate accepted over the weekend the final version of the $145-million fiscal year 2018 budget, about two weeks before the end of fiscal year 2017.

With the House unanimously accepting the bicameral conference committee version and the Senate likewise accepting it, albeit with an 8-1 vote, the bill now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for review. Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) was the sole legislator who voted against the budget.

The conference committee initiated discussions just hours after a House emergency session in the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2017. The conference committee came out with a final product last Thursday morning after consecutive meetings through-

See BUDGET on Page 4

IPR: Net revenue more than doubles

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an unaudited financial report to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC said its net revenue more than doubled over the first six months of 2017.

Net revenue for 2017 reportedly amounted to HKD 4.7 million, or $608,296.17.

The previous year's net revenue amounted to HKD 2.3 million, or $300,488.91, showing a 102.43-percent increase.

Gross revenue for the first half of 2017 came in at HKD 7.3 million, or $933,653, while the first half of 2016 was recorded at HKD 3.9 million, or $509,854.01, indicating an increase

See IPR on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The island of Rota celebrated the 3rd Luta Coconut Festival over the weekend.
PAGE 14

BUSINESS
Rising sea levels have failed to stop relentless population growth along U.S. coasts.
PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
The eight-year marriage of Fergie and Josh Duhamel is over.
PAGE 21

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Woman gets 3 years in prison for burglary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two women who burglarized and ransacked some rooms at an apartment on Navy Hill has been slapped with a three-year prison term.

Johnalyn Salinas was sentenced to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for three years, for burglary.

Salinas, 35, was given credit for 106 days of time served. Upon completing her prison term, she will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

Salinas shall pay a total of $794 in restitution to five victims, a $100 fine, and $100 in court costs. She will be required to perform 200 hours of community service, complete drug and alcohol counseling, and apologize to the victims.

She is prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages during her probation.

At a change of plea last Wednesday, Salinas pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges of conspiracy to commit burglary and theft and theft were dropped.

According to the plea deal, Salinas burglarized some rooms at the Blue Hill Apartment on Navy Hill on May 21, 2017.

Steven J. Nutting is counsel for Salinas.

Salinas and her co-defendant, Laraad Ramangmou, were arrested a few days after the burglary because of a surveillance camera in the apartment that led to their identification.

Ramangmou is expected to also enter a guilty plea at a hearing on Thursday at 9am.

A police officer was dispatched last May 22 to the Blue Hill Apartment on Navy Hill, in response to a complaint of burglary.

One of the victims told the responding officer that she noticed that her yellow bag was missing upon waking up last May 21.

The following day, May 22, she noticed that even her guitar, which was in a case, was also gone.

When she asked her roommates about her missing items, she found out that they also lost some items: dresses, shoes, shirts, sunglasses, identification cards, bags, all worth $900; plus cellphones, a laptop, passport, wallet, identification cards, $5,900 worth of Chinese currency, and $510 cash.

Police reviewed the apartment's surveillance footage and identified Salinas and Ramangmou as the persons who burglarized the rooms, stole several items, and left aboard a sedan with license plate ADU-542.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools

The Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday Sept. 21, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. ***(PR)***

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Sept. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.comt. ***(PR)***

Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
The Marianas
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HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Why Visit The Marianas?

Let's find out more about our visitors, based on the Marianas Visitors Authority's latest visitor exit survey covering July 2016 through June 2017. Here's what a sampling of what visitors shared with us before their departure from The Marianas:

Sources of Information
When planning your vacation, how do you decide where to go? When visitors were asked about the sources of information of The Marianas before their travels, most indicated internet advertisements or promotions (31%). However, fewer Japanese visitors claimed to use this as a source of information about the Marianas (18%). About a quarter (27%) indicating utilizing a travel agency, about the same proportion (24%) indicated The Marianas was recommended by friends/relatives.

Purpose of Travel
It's no surprise that 90 percent of visitors are coming to The Marianas for pleasure/vacation. However, a notable number are also on their honeymoon, including 14% of visitors from China. Business/school and Other account for 3 %.

Upcoming Events
- International Festival of Cultures
  Sept. 23, & 30, 2017
  Garapan Fishing Base
- Rota Coconut Festival
  Sept. 11-16, 2017
- Bisita Luta
  Oct. 5-8, 2017

www.mymarianas.com

Dimaano is MINA's environmental champ

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TanHoldings vice president for Finance Lina Dimaano won the coveted Environmental Champion award given by Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance during its 3rd Annual Green Gala last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

As an official of TanHoldings, Dimaano takes the lead in implementing conservation efforts within the corporation such as promoting the three R's (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle), reducing the use of paper, promoting the World Wildlife Fund Earth Hour, and more.

The award given to Dimaano was one of four awards MINA gave out last Saturday to recognize efforts made by individuals, companies, and agencies with the intent of saving the environment.

The other winners were the Law Office of George L. Hasselback, Marianas High School, and MINA chair Fran Castro.

The Green Business of the Year award was given to the Hasselback law office for going as far as eliminating the use of paper in its office as much as possible. The office also maximized its use of technology by storing its documents and important files onto iCloud. On average, the business uses less than five sheets of paper a day.

The Environmental Hero of the Year award was given to the conservation action plan committee of the Marianas High School. These students have conducted beach cleanups, outreach programs for their peers, and shared their ideas for a sustainable environment.

MINA's Distinguished Leadership in Environmental Conservation award went to Castro. The award was the first of its kind and this was the first year that an individual was awarded this accolade.

Castro served as the Division of Environmental Quality program manager for 16 years and has been a part of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument-monitoring program. She also co-founded MINA and served as the Coastal Resource Management director for over three year before resigning.

Now that she is in Guam, Castro hopes to expand MINA to Guam by 2018.

Over 200 attended the 3rd Annual Green Gala.

The Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance board members and former board members pose for a photo during the green gala last Friday held at the Fiesta Resort Saipan Hibiscus Hall. Board members gather to award MINA Chair Fran Castro, sixth from the left, the Distinguished leadership in environmental conservation award. Third from right is Environmental Champion awardee Lina Dimaano.

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Crab Combo Bag
Snow Crab Cluster, Jumbo Shrimp, Sliced Jumbo Squid, Green Mussels, Clams, Baby Octopus, Spicy Chamorro Sausage, Corn on the Cob, Carrots, & Potatoes. Served with Nachos with Jalapeno Cheese, and Apple Turnover served with Vanilla Ice Cream.
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Deluxe Lobster Combo Bag
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Seventh Circuit hears territorial voting rights challenge

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit heard oral arguments Friday in *Segovia v. United States*, an equal protection challenge by plaintiffs in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands who would be able to absentee vote for President and voting representation in Congress if they lived in other U.S. territories or a foreign country, but are denied such rights based solely on their ZIP code.

The Appeals Court panel consisted of Judge David Hamilton, Judge Ilana Rovner, and Judge Daniel Manion. Oral argument will be posted online.

Earlier this week, the Trump Department of Justice filed a last-minute letter with the court arguing that the remedy to any equal protection violation should be to strip away statutorily provided voting rights that are already guaranteed to residents of certain territories. At oral argument, Hamilton asked several questions about remedy. As plaintiffs explained in its response to DOJ and at argument, the Supreme Court has never "leveled down" as a remedy to an equal protection violation in voting rights cases, and the Seventh Circuit shouldn't do so here.

With respect to the federal and state defendants' arguments that territories can each be treated differently with respect to voting rights, Rovner expressed skepticism to the idea that "being treated differently" can itself be a justification for being treated differently. Plaintiffs argued in court there was simply no justification to expand absentee voting rights to the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, and foreign countries, while denying them in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

None of the judges raised the Insular Cases during oral argument.

While the District Court had relied on the controversial, Plessy-era Insular Cases to rule that the right to vote is not a "fundamental right" in U.S. territories, not even the defendants in the case supported this view.

A group of prominent academics filed an amicus brief rejecting any reliance on the Insular Cases to restrict voting rights in U.S. territories.

"We made a powerful case today that where you live should not impact your right to vote," said Neil Weare, president and founder of We the People Project, a nonprofit that advocates for equal rights and representation in U.S. territories. "The fact that residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico who are recovering from Hurricane Irma and residents of Guam who face nuclear threats from North Korea are denied any voting representation in Washington highlights the important work that remains, both in the courtroom and through the political process."

"I was pleased to see the judges engaged in these important issues, and look forward to a decision from the court," said Geoffrey Wyatt, who argued the case for Plaintiffs.

A decision in the case is expected early next year, in time for the 2018 Mid-Term Elections.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DELTA

From Page 1

didn't provide available flights in 2018.

"I tried economy seats and the first class but not one available seat showed up. The customer representative who tried to help me was caught off-guard and couldn't explain why flights in February 2018 won't show."

Currently, there are three flights that service the Guam-Narita route—Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and Japan Airlines.

According to the Guam customer, tight competition among airlines that service the route may be the reason why Delta Air Lines is pulling out of Guam.

In June this year, budget airline HK Express suspended its Guam service between Hong Kong and Guam.

Meanwhile, Delta Air Lines continues to operate a single daily flight between Tokyo and Japan. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

IPR

From Page 1

of 83.12 percent.

The report attributed the increase in gross revenue to the casino gaming operations.

Profit for the first half of 2017 is at HKD 912,028, or $116,642.73. The previous year's profit for the same period was at HKD 837,330, or $107,089.32.

"The growth of profit is mainly attributable to [an] increase in operating profits generated by Best Sunshine Live during the period," the report specified.

The live training facility at T Galleria in Garapan has moved to its permanent location at the Imperial Pacific Resort in early July 2017.

Total equity for the first half of 2017 yielded HKD 4 million, or $523,025.53, while the previous year's was set at HKD 2.8 million, or $365,890.99. Total equity as of the first half of 2017 increased by 42.94 percent.

Though the report noted substantial net revenue increases, the increases for operating and administrative expenses as well as finance costs also skyrocketed.

Operating and administrative expenses for the first half of 2017 cost HKD 2.9 million, or $373,490.18 while the previous year's first half cost a mere HKD 949,140, or $121,389.12. The difference in expenses indicates an increase of 207.68 percent for operating and administrative expenses.

Finance costs jumped from HKD 49,123, or $6,282.53 for the first half of 2016 to HKD 97,079, or $$12,415.80—nearly doubling for the first half of 2017.

BUDGET

From Page 1

out last week.

Major disputes between both chambers included the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget, which the Senate amended to indirectly impose a $1.5-million reduction. Through the bicameral conference committee, both chambers agreed to reduce it to $1 million.

Salary increases for elected officials were also a cause for concern, especially with an ongoing certified question filed by Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Finance Secretary Larissa Larson with the CNMI Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the salary increases. The House previously received information that Larson would voluntarily hold off on the increases while the Senate is reviewing the budget.

The conference committee agreed to appropriate $104,759 to the Department of Public Works' streetlights program, and $380,900 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Comments

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres later issued a statement expressing his gratitude for the Legislature's swift negotiations.

"As I review this budget, it is my administration's priority to have a budget that supports the needs of our growing and thriving community, while providing more resources for more economic opportunities for every person who call these islands home," reads the statement.

"I want to thank the members and the conferees of both the House and Senate for their work these last several months debating over our Commonwealth's priorities and for meeting with my administration's heads to discuss the critical needs of each department and agency in our government."

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) commended the conferees for their swift work.

"Hopefully the governor will approve our budget so that we could avoid a government shutdown," said Demapan, who also commended the Legislative Bureau and other legislative employees.

He assured that the Legislature is committed to addressing the needs of critical agencies that did not receive sufficient funding through supplemental appropriations.

"The budget does not end here. In a very short time, we would be having another session that would include an appropriation measure," said Demapan.

House panel conferees chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said this year's budget deliberations were different from the previous ones because this time, the government had "resources available."

"It really came down to how we slice this pie," he said, adding that the previous government shutdown occurred due to the lack of resources to run the government.

"This time, I am particularly proud of this process because it took the conference committee three days to conclude deliberations," he said. Conference committee deliberations usually last at least two weeks.

"I am very thankful to the House conferees and Senate conferees chairman Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) for committing our time and energy in resolving our differences this quickly and in the spirit of [not subjecting] our people to a shutdown in government services," said Demapan.

Hofschneider noted that it was "highly commendable" for the legislators to retire a handful of public debts, referring to a wage increase for civil service employees that takes effect on Oct. 1, 2017.

"Since 2015 when we assumed office, there was an unprecedented action of government leaders for providing salary adjustments by way of increasing salary of public agency employees," he said.

Hofschneider added that the salary increases is the "third or fourth time in as many years."

"This is an indication of a healthier economy and a harmonious working relationship among the decision makers from both the executive branch and the Legislature," he said.

The Senate also added an amendment to the budget bill that included Solid Waste employees from all senatorial districts to be paid a hazardous work differential.

Torres is now in the process of reviewing the budget bill, officially called House Bill 20-105, HD2, SD3, CCS1.

MAN

From Page 1

back after the strong current swept him out to open sea.

Gersonde said the DFEMS rescue swimmers found the victim's body about 15 feet underwater off Bird Island at 8:35am.

Commonwealth Ports Authority's patrol boat transported the victim's body to the Smiling Cove Marina, where an ambulance took him to the Commonwealth Health Center. Dr. Neda Farzan pronounced him dead at 9:37am.

Sources said Sagun, an employee of the Department of Public Works, used to be an employee of Shirley's Coffee Shop, where his girlfriend currently works.

Gersonde stated that DFEMS received a call on Saturday at 3:52pm from the Department of Public Safety's 911 about a missing swimmer at Bird Island.

A rescue team from the Susupe fire station responded and the DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit was activated.

DFEMS rescue swimmers conducted the search for Sagun around the shoreline and in the waters around Bird Island, with support from DPS Boating Safety boat.

The search ceased at nightfall on Saturday. Rescuers resumed the search early yesterday morning.

DFEMS rescue swimmers initiated their search pattern in the water around Bird Island with support of CPA's patrol boat.

According to witnesses at the scene, Sagun was last seen Saturday around 1pm. He was with his girlfriend on a sightseeing trip. Apparently, the two had no plans to swim.

DPS spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said when police responded to the incident, they met Sagun's 25-year-old companion.

Tarkong said the two were taking pictures and managed to walk onto Bird Island.

Sagun asked his girlfriend to take a video of him jumping into the water and swimming to shore.

Sagun jumped into the water, but could not swim back to shore because of the strong current. He was last seen drifting further into the sea south of Bird Island.

The girlfriend called 911 for help. DPS dispatched the Zodiac rescue boat and its dive rescue team.

Tarkong said DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit, CPA, and the U.S. Coast Guard were also activated to help in the search.

A security guard told *Saipan Tribune* he was on duty at the Bird Island Lookout on Saturday and only learned about the missing person when police officers started arriving at the lookout that afternoon.

The guard said he later saw the victim's female companion, who was crying and taken by the officers to a car.

Sagun is the seventh ocean/beach drowning victim this year on Saipan, according to *Saipan Tribune* records.

Last Aug. 29, a 33-year-old Korean woman drowned when she and her brother got swept into the ocean while swimming outside the reef at Obyan Beach south of the Saipan International Airport. The brother survived by swimming back inside the reef.

Last July 16, a 26-year-old local man who went fishing with a companion was later found dead due to drowning in the ocean near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Last June 13, a 15-year-old Korean male student reportedly drowned while spearfishing at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa. DFEMS and DPS Boating Section Unit personnel found the boy's body in the channel.

Last May 4, a 71-year-old Korean man drowned while swimming at the beach of Kensington Hotel in San Roque, while a 50-year-old Japanese man also drowned while scuba diving at Laulau Bay.

Last Jan. 26, 53-year-old Isidro Wabol, who had gone swimming, was later found dead outside the reef at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

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2017 NISSAN FRONTIER retail price $26,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $351.82 or $162.33 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $25,323.84.
2017 NISSAN TITAN SV 4WD - 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $742.81 or $342.84 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $53,482.32.

Kagman center gets $176K to add mental health programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Kagman Community Health Center will be able to begin services for mental health and substance abuse with $175,700 in federal funds awarded last Thursday. Kagman is one of 1,178 health centers nationwide to receive a grant, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said, and he congratulated executive director Vince Castro and the health center board and staff for taking the initiative to provide this new range of services.

"Our Kagman community has a great void in mental health and substance abuse services," Castro explained. "Knowing this, it was prudent to apply for the Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse funding and start providing services in mental health and substance abuse.

"We have a 120-day plan to implement the services now that KCHC received funding," he added.

"Our community is well aware of the costs to families and individuals as a result of substance abuse," said Sablan. "Having services available at the Kagman Health Center, which is already proving to be so important to healthcare delivery on Saipan, will be one more way for us to address the drug and alcohol problem."

The AIMS funds are intended to pay for increasing personnel, leveraging health information technology, and providing training.

The Kagman Community Health Center makes primary and preventive health care more easily available to approximately 16,000 people living in Kagman, Papago, Fina Sisu, Obyan, Dandan, San Vicente, As Teo, and As Terlaje.

After years of effort by community activists, the center was awarded start-up funding of $608,333 in 2012 with the help of Sablan and Obamacare. Sablan has continued to advocate for the annual federal funding that the health center relies on.

"Nationally, about half of all care for common mental health conditions happens in the primary care settings," explained George Sigounas, head of the Health Resources and Services Administration, which manages the funding. ***(PR)***

Triple J donates $10K to CCA, Make-a-Wish

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inaugural Foam & Fun 5K on Saipan that was organized by Triple J benefitted two non-profit organizations: the Commonwealth Cancer Association and to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, with each getting $10,000.

Last Friday, at the Surf Club Saipan, Triple J officials presented $10,000 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association and another $10,000 to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

CCA executive director Juan Babauta said the donation is a huge help because the organization needs all the money it can get to provide for cancer patients who have returned from treatment.

"One of our programs that is really in need is direct services to our clients who are returning from treatment," said Babauta.

CCA provides medical equipment to these individuals, nutritional supplements, as well as support for cancer patients.

Some of the money the CCA received will also help the Commonwealth Health Center in upgrading its current mammographic equipment.

"It will add accuracy and clear imaging in the process of early screening and early diagnosis of breast cancer," said Babauta.

CCA board secretary Bobbi Grizzard said the association is grateful that Triple J recognizes the importance of supporting their mission.

The other beneficiary was the local Make-A-Wish Foundation, which focuses on granting wishes for children who face life-threatening conditions.

According to Make-A-Wish Foundation board member Kanae Quinn, the foundation is currently in the middle of granting a wish.

"We have one wish kid coming up soon and her wish is to either go to the Philippines and visit her great grandparents or to go to Disneyland," said Quinn.

She said the donation would go to funding the child's transportation, hotel, and other expenses.

According to Make-A-Wish Foundation board member Eleanor Cabrera, it came as a surprise that the group was chosen to benefit from the Foam & Fun 5K.

Department of Labor

CNMI-OSHA "FREE" On-Site Consultation Services:

Are you an employer who wants to protect your employees' safety and health, but who needs some expert assistance? Are you concerned that your business cannot afford the cost of professional help?

Call now! Good News in an Attractive Package: The Price is right!

Free – services are provided are free and supported by Federal funds.

Voluntary – Consultation services are voluntary, an employer must request service and agree to certain obligations, primarily that the employer agrees to correct all hazards found during the consultation visit within an agreed-upon time frame.

Smaller Business – Specifically designed for small and medium sized business – not more than 250 employees.

No Penalty – No citations are issued for hazards identified by the consultant, and no penalties are ever proposed

Confidentiality – Public disclosure & enforcement disclosure (consultation result not publicized or shared with OSHA enforcement). Except in situations where imminent danger or serious hazards are not corrected as agreed upon.

Full Service Consultation – Full service consultation covers all working conditions and includes assistance in establishing effective workplace safety and health programs, also may include training and education for you, supervisors, and your other employees.

Benefits – First and foremost, your increased understanding of workplace hazards and remedies will enable you to protect your workers from injury and illness.

Consultation in Action: Five (5) Steps to success

1) Requesting Assistance – Consultation starts with your request which may be telephone call, a letter, personal contact to CNMI-OSHA Office or email.
2) The opening conference
3) The Walkthrough
4) The closing conference
5) Hazard Correction After the Visit

Consultation will "NOT":

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of federal or states OSHA standard
- Guarantee that any workplace will "pass" a federal or state OSHA INSPECTIONS

When you request consultation service, by the completion of the process you will receive:

- An appraisal of all mechanical and environmental hazards and physical work practices;
- An appraisal of the present job safety and health program or the establishment of one;
- A conference to review findings;
- A written report of recommendations and agreements
- Training and assistance with implementing recommendations
- Follow-up by the consultant to ensure that any required corrections have been made

For more information please contact CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program at
Tel: No. 664-3156/3157, Cell: No. 287-7531
or visit our office
At Capitol Hill, 1338 Ascension Dr.
Ask for
Elaine Pangelinan
Joey Pangelinan
Or, Mariana Coates

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

YOUNG AUTHOR
First lady Diann Torres and members of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation formally present the newly published book, *Hafa Sinentete-Mu*?, to young author Adora San Nicholas on Rota last Saturday. Also in the photo are Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, the family of Adora, and representatives of the Antonio Atalig Memorial Library.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo statement on North Korea missile launch

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo)D-GU) issued the following statement on North Korea's latest missile launch.

"North Korea's latest missile launch is a provocation of the international community and demonstrates the regimes unwillingness to halt its destabilizing actions. The United States is firm in our absolute and unwavering commitment to the security of Guam, as well as our allies in Japan, South Korea, and the region. Given the recent passage of additional UN sanctions on North Korea, the Trump Administration should intensify its efforts to work with the international committee, especially China, to make clear that North Korea's latest action is abhorrent and will not be tolerated.

"Earlier this week I attended a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee on North Korea, and I continue to have full confidence in the defensive capabilities on Guam and in the region. Our community should be reassured that the DoD is prepared to protect Guam and keep our island safe." ***(PR)***

BOOK LAUNCH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Book author Coloma Castro holds up his book *I Lina'la Hu*. He is joined in this picture by first lady Diann Torres and his mother.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Diomedes R. Patio Petitioner, -vs- Lorena Dela Mines Patio Respondent) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0433T) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATIONS**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 520274 Tinian MP 96952 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

SAIPAN
COUNTRY CLUB & GOLF COURSE
The First Golf Course in Saipan!
Great Local's special pricing
and discounts!
Monthly memberships for as low
as $100 for a month
10 rounds of Golf Coupons
for as low as $50 - $5 per round!
Located on Middle Road,
at Saipan Vegas next to McDonald's.
COME PLAY TODAY!
Web site www.saipancountryclub.com
Facebook (@saipancountryclub)
Phone: (670) 234-7300

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old. Many times deaths and injuries can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

Child Passenger Safety Week

September 17 - 23, 2017

There are many car seat choices on the market. Use the information below to help you choose the type of car seat that best meets your child's needs.

Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.

Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.

To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.

Keep your child inthe back seat at least through age 12.

REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth – 12 Months
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats:

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

1 – 3 Years
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

1 – 3 Years
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

4 – 7 Years
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

BOOSTER SEAT

4 – 7 Years
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8 – 12 Years
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

SEAT BELT

8 – 12 Years
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

National Seat Check and Family Fun Day

September 23, 2017 • 9:00am - 12 noon • Civic Center, Susupe

Car Seat Inspection Stations are located at:
DPS-Highway Safety Office • DPS Traffic Section • Garapan Fire Station
Koblerville Fire Station • Kagman Fire Station • Tinian Traffic Section • Rota Traffic Section

CNMI Department of Public Safety.
For more information call:
SAIPAN 664-9001/9125
TINIAN 433-9222/2041
ROTA 532-9433/9530
www.dps.gov.mp

NHTSA www.nhtsa.gov

The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-027

ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-001

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 & 2018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 & 2018. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than November 17, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2018 (FY17) & 2019 (FY18). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2017 & 2018 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-001, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 & 2018**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

October is dedicated to cancer awareness, fallen firefighters

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The entire month of October will be packed with activities to raise awareness about breast cancer and to honor fallen Commonwealth firefighters.

In back-to-back proclamation signings last Thursday at the Office of the Governor conference room, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said it is vital to remember all those who've lost their lives to cancer or while serving as a firefighter.

In statistics shared by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna last week, she stressed that breast cancer, by far the most common among women in the Commonwealth, does not discriminate, affecting not just islanders but also Filipinos, Micronesians, and all the other ethnic groups on the island.

She said 86 individuals have been diagnosed with breast cancer in the last nine years in the CNMI and 21 of them lost the battle.

Women are not the only ones susceptible to the epidemic. According to Muna, two men lost their lives to breast cancer.

Because everyone can be diagnosed with breast cancer, it is important that the community remains aware and it is encouraged that individuals get tested since early detection can possibly save lives.

On Oct. 7 and 8, the community is urged to take part in the memorial weekend dedicated to fallen firefighters who lost their lives protecting the Commonwealth.

Those firefighters who lost their lives must be honored because, according to Torres, they were the first responders and had died in response to the call for help and should never forgotten.

To honor these heroes, the Commonwealth community is encouraged to lower flags to half staff, toll a bell, pause for a silent moment, or read a message dedicated to them during the memorial weekend.

According to Torres, it is also important to remember those who lost their battle to cancer because the battle was not easy. Torres urged every individual present during the proclamation to be aware of the possibility.

Thursday's proclamation signing was a hodge-podge of firefighters, healthcare providers, cancer survivors, and associations that offer help to those individuals diagnosed with cancer.

Throughout the month of October, activities will be held in honor of these causes.

Every Saturday, throughout the month of October, firefighters and the staff of the Commonwealth Cancer Association will conduct a celebrity bagging at all Joeten stores.

There will also be a smoke alarm installation on Tinian on Sept. 30 and fire alarm installation in many different agencies throughout October.

In the beginning of October, a red Mass will be held at the St. Jude Parish in honor of the fallen heroes.

Throughout the month, the Department of Emergency Management Services along with American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will reach out to schools in fire safety.

Every Thursday of October, there will be a boot drive that collects donations that will go to assisting the local cancer association.

Federal judge orders Torres to appear at status conference in Johnson lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. has ordered Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to attend a status hearing in the Betty Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

As this developed, former lawmaker Mariano Taitano is questioning Joyce C. H. Tang's alleged failure to prosecute the Fund's lawsuit against Gerhard "Gary" Sword and his company, Express Electronics. He asked the federal court to replace Tang with someone from Saipan. Tang is the Settlement Fund trustee.

If Torres can't make it, Lt. Gov. Victor Borja Hocog should be present at the hearing, scheduled for Sept. 27, 2017.

Manibusan also ordered Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson to attend.

The federal court recently ordered Tang and other parties in Johnson's lawsuit to file a joint report whether all issues in Johnson's class action have been resolved.

The court also asked for a joint report whether the case can now be closed.

The parties were given no later than Sept. 15 to file the report.

In 2013, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Under the deal, the CNMI government will make annual payments that will fund at least 75 percent of class members' benefits.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred and assigned as assets of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Fund was then administered by Tang, who was appointed to the post by the court.

Meanwhile, in a letter filed in court last Tuesday, Taitano, a former lawmaker and now a retiree, expressed disappointment over the alleged lack of efforts by Tang or trustee ad litem Joseph Razzano to prosecute the case against Sword and Express Electronics.

Taitano said that, on April 27, 2016, Superior Court clerk of court Patrick V. Diaz issued an order of dismissal in the Fund's lawsuit against Sword and Express Electronics.

In the order, clerk of court Patrick V. Diaz said 30 days have passed since notice of pending dismissal was sent to the parties in this case, and no timely opposition was filed.

Taitano said that Tang and Razzano both failed to fulfill their responsibilities as trustee ad litems in pursuing the case, which the NMI Retirement Fund loss nearly $400,000 by Express Electronics' inability to perform and deliver ton a contract regarding the program's computer software system.

As a retiree, Taitano said, it is extremely disappointing and disheartening to repeatedly read in the newspapers about the fee being paid to Tang.

Taitano said if Tang had pursued the case against Sword, perhaps he may be content with her services regardless if she prevails or not.

He said the Settlement Fund is accounting and administrative in nature, which can be easily handled by Lillian Pangelinan and her staff rather than a highly paid lawyer from Guam whose airline and lodging are factored into her fees.

Taitano asked the court to replace Tang with someone from Saipan.

It was Taitano and two others who sued the Fund's board, the Fund's former investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, and others in Superior Court, alleging various causes of action for damages relating to the decline in the Fund's assets.

The case was then submitted to arbitration. Taitano and co-plaintiffs subsequently transferred their claims against Merrill Lynch to the Settlement Fund. Merrill Lynch subsequently settled the case for $7.4 million. The Settlement Fund received $5.12 million in net proceeds from the $7.4 million.

$150K requested for Amelia Earhart statue

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A committee dedicated to enshrining the memory of Amelia Earhart has requested a funding of $150,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to create a monument on Saipan.

Last Thursday, a proposal was written for the local delegation by a representative of the Amelia Earhart Committee enumerated the reasons as to why a monument is necessary.

The committee plans to build a 12-foot statue in Earhart's honor on Saipan, where Earhart allegedly was imprisoned and died.

"It is time for Saipan to acknowledge the presence of Amelia Earhart in 1937 and build a memorial monument in her honor…a 12-foot statue witnessing to the whole world that Saipan is the island where Amelia Earhart was known to have lived," the proposal reads.

The committee is requesting for $150,000 from the delegation to fund the statue. The committee believes that a 12-foot monument is crucial to have on Saipan for various reasons.

According to Amelia Earhart Committee representative Marie Soledad Camacho Castro, her co-committee members believe strongly that the alleged historical theory that Earhart was held captive on Saipan should be acknowledged as an important historical event.

"On behalf of the Amelia Earhart Committee, I strongly believe that Saipan should acknowledge the important historical event dating back to 1937," Castro wrote. "Amelia Earhart was brought to Saipan by the Japanese after her plane came down in the Pacific."

In her letter Castro writes that Earhart's accomplishments should be remembered on Saipan because this year marks the 80th year when Earhart's plane allegedly crashed in the Pacific.

"Amelia Earhart was a famous American pilot… Earhart was an accomplished woman…this year marks the 80th year when her plane came down in the Pacific," wrote Castro.

The committee believes that a monument will attract international visitors.

"The memorial statue would be an international media eyewitness account and a significant visitor site," she wrote.

Cook pleads guilty to 'ice' possession

A restaurant cook who was arrested by CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers last June for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" in Garapan has pleaded guilty to illegal possession.

Joselito Pineda Sioco, 47, also known as Jojo, pleaded guilty last week as part of a plea deal with the government. He will be sentenced on Nov. 15, 2017.

Assistant public defender Shoshanah D. Epstein is counsel for Sioco. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass is counsel for the government.

According to the plea deal, Sioco was found in possession of .8 gross grams of meth on April 4, 2017.

Task force officer George Fleming David stated in his report that they investigated last March 27 the drug activities in Garapan involving Sioco.

David said their "cooperating source" managed to buy $170 worth of 0.8 gross grams of "ice" from Sioco during a "buy-walk" operation at his barracks in Garapan last April 4.

David said their "cooperating source" was able to purchase $170 worth of 0.8 gross grams of "ice" from Sioco during the second "buy-walk" operation at his barracks last April 5. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TORRES ON FECAL MATTER IN BEACHES:

'We need to get to the bottom of this!'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants those who make pristine beaches dirty by defecation and littering be held responsible.

"[We] need to find who does this, whether it's residents or tourists," said Torres. "Whoever does it [should] get the maximum fines in the books," he said, adding that if regulations are not "strict enough…the Legislature needs to revisit and propose for a regulatory change."

» Says tour agencies should be held responsible for guests

This came about after *Saipan Tribune* learned that two remote beaches were found in mid-August 2017 to be littered with what is assumed to be human waste.

Torres said that leaving fecal matter in beaches is "absolutely unacceptable."

"This is what we have. We bring our kids to the beach to appreciate it and [for] activities like that [to continue] is absolutely unacceptable and embarrassing," he said, adding that, in case of tourists, the tour companies must be responsible for their guests.

Saipan Tribune previously quoted Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman as saying that tourists are suspected of leaving behind the mess at Hidden Beach and Jeffrey's Beach.

"Those actions should never be accepted in any part of the world, especially here on the islands," said Torres.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority statistics, the CNMI has seen a drastic increase in tourist visitor arrivals since fiscal year 2016. From October 2016 to July 2017, the CNMI has witnessed a total of 541,152 arrivals, already 39,663 more visitors than the total number of visitors in fiscal year 2016. Fiscal year 2017 ends on Oct. 1, 2017.

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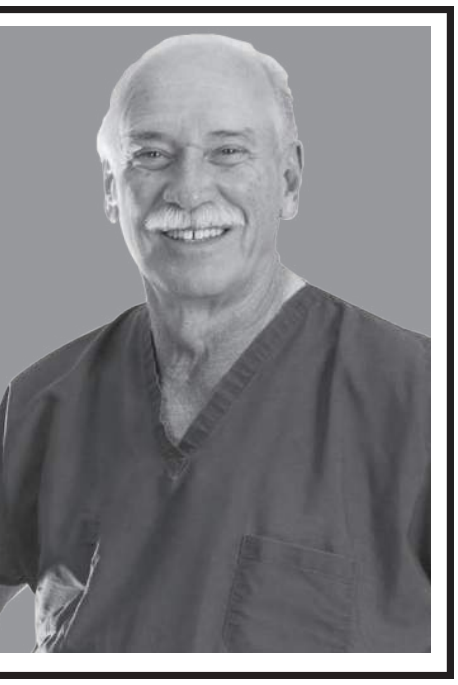

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Michael Dotts,
Partner, O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes

Michael Dotts has practiced in San Francisco with a large employment firm then came to Saipan to assist in securities litigation in 1988. Michael led six employers to election victories against labor unions and has defended numerous Title VII cases against the EEOC, and defended FLSA cases against DOL. Today, Michael focuses on real estate, corporate law, and employment law.

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES'S CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff -v- VINCENT X. MAILMONG, Defendant

CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0069

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief demanded in the Complaint.

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/s/ Clerk of Court

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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THE PRESIDENT MAY CHANGE HIS MIND AGAIN ON DACA... BEFORE I FINISH THIS SENTENCE.
NEWS
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MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

War is hell, and sometimes a mistake

Is there a more painful game of "what if?" that Americans could play than to wonder what the 1960s, and today, would look like if the United States had avoided military catastrophe in Vietnam?

The pivotal moment may have been in early 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson realized he was trapped in the early days of an escalating war the United States probably couldn't win. He knew the intensifying conflict would distract him from his prized agenda of creating "the Great Society" at home. But he also felt he had no choice but to proceed, because he'd won election in 1964 to a full term as president by promising to lick the North. "I feel like a jackass caught in a Texas hailstorm. I can't run, I can't hide and I can't make it stop," he's quoted as saying in Ken Burns' gripping new documentary series, "The Vietnam War."

Oh, the power of hindsight, and the tragedy of hubris. Both are powerfully demonstrated in the 10-part, 18-hour PBS documentary series that begins airing Sunday. Burns, co-director Lynn Novick and their team worked for 10 years to tell the story, interviewing dozens of witnesses, including combatants on both sides. It was worth the effort. One of the most important points the series makes is that Johnson clearly understood the risk of beginning a major bombing campaign in the North and committing U.S. ground troops to the conflict. If only he'd listened to his own taped telephone conversations, which Burns uses to strong effect. Ever eavesdrop on someone making a terrible decision? That's what watching "The Vietnam War" feels like.

The background: In late 1964, the documentary explains, North Vietnam pulled off its first stunning battlefield victory of the war, sending Viet Cong troops deep into the South to Binh Gia, where they annihilated several companies of South Vietnamese army rangers, killing 200. Five American military advisers died. Soon after, the North Vietnamese blew up a hotel occupied by American military personnel, killing 23. If the Viet Cong troops could penetrate so deeply into the South, this said something important about the war's trajectory.

Johnson knew. In March 1965, he shared his concerns in a phone call with Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia, who told the president there appeared to be "no way out" of Vietnam. Johnson responded: "A man can fight if he can see daylight down the road somewhere, but there ain't no daylight in Vietnam, there's not a bit." Yet Johnson chose to fight, unleashing Operation Rolling Thunder, a sustained bombing campaign, and ordering the first U.S. ground troops into the conflict. The war would last 10 more years. In all, more than 58,000 Americans would die, and several million Vietnamese.

Burns, who with Novick recently visited the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board, said the purpose of their documentary wasn't to pass judgment or play the "What if?" parlor game, but to put the passage of time to his advantage as a documentary-maker. After 40 years, the consequences are better understood, and once-hidden details have been uncovered and studied. Also, with the U.S. and Vietnam now friendly, the filmmakers could interview some of the victors _ for-

See WAR on Next Page

Harvey and Irma can't be blamed on climate change

By NICOLAS LORIS
The Heritage Foundation

Nicolas Loris is the Morgan Research Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy at The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C., 20002; Website: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

In the era of fake news, misinformation tends to spread quickly—especially during a time of crisis. The deceptions that have sprung up in the wake of hurricanes Harvey and Irma show that it's high time to separate fact from fiction.

When Harvey hit landfall, a picture of a shark allegedly on a highway in Houston went viral, fooling at least one reporter. The same fake picture, which has been around for years, cropped up during Irma. Yet before stopping to check if the picture is real, people retweet or share it on Facebook hundreds of thousands of times.

The same is true for blaming man-made climate change for Harvey and Irma. Before actually analyzing the data, one news outlet wrote, "Harvey is what climate change looks like." Another called the one-two punch of Harvey and Irma the potential "new normal." Other environmental activists went as far as to say that the two natural disasters are reason to finally jail officials who "reject science."

There's only one small problem with such accusations. Man-made warming did not cause Harvey and Irma. As carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have increased, there have been no trends in global tropical cycle landfalls. Before Harvey and Irma, with a little bit of luck, the United States was in a 12-year hurricane drought. More importantly, the average number of hurricanes per decade reaching landfall in the U.S. has fallen over the past 160 years.

This comes not via "denier data," but from mainstream science. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in its most recent scientific assessment that "(n)o robust trends in annual numbers of tropical storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes ... have been identified over the past 100 years in the North Atlantic basin," and that there are "no significant observed trends in global tropical cyclone frequency."

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, "It is premature to conclude that human activities—and particularly greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming—have already had a detectable impact on Atlantic hurricane or global tropical cyclone activity."

Other media outlets took a more measured approach, claiming that man did not cause Harvey and Irma but supercharged them. The reasoning is that warmer sea surface temperatures increase moisture in the air and, in turn, up the intensity of the hurricanes.

But University of Washington climatologist Cliff Mass, after examining precipitation levels in the Gulf, discredited this claim. He found that "(t)here is no evidence that global warming is influencing Texas coastal precipitation in the long term and little evidence that warmer than normal temperatures had any real impact on the precipitation intensity from this storm."

CNN asked Bill Read, former director of the National Hurricane Center, whether man-made climate change was intensifying storms. He said no, adding, "This is not an uncommon occurrence to see storms grow and intensify rapidly in the western Gulf of Mexico. That's as long as we've been tracking them that has occurred."

Even if man-made warming were responsible for Harvey and Irma, the policies that tax or regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions are costly non-solutions. The U.S. could slap a $40 tax on all carbon dioxide emissions, and the "climate benefits" would be hardly noticeable. By the year 2100, the averted warming would be less than two-tenths of a degree Celsius, and the averted sea level rise would be less than 2 centimeters.

The costs, however, would be staggering. Because carbon dioxide-emitting conventional fuels meet 80 percent of America's energy needs, the tax would harm families multiple times over as energy is a necessary component for almost everything we make and do. Between now and 2035, the country would experience an average employment shortfall of 400,000 lost jobs, a total loss of income exceeding $20,000 for a family of four, and a $2.5 trillion hit to the overall economy. That means less wealth to combat future challenges, whether they are climate-related or not.

Political opportunism is distracting from what is important: helping the people in Houston, Florida and the islands. Policymakers should focus on improving natural disaster response, resilience and preparedness. Blaming man-made climate change on Harvey and Irma is truly denying the data.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My [almost] arrest

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Managing Editor

Jayvee Vallejera is the managing editor of Saipan Tribune.

An old adage that is said to be mistakenly attributed to Mark Twain says not to let the truth stand in the way of a good story. I almost had a great story last Thursday. Too bad the final result was much too mundane.

If matters had not turned in my favor, I would have called the office to tell them I won't be able to come in as I had been arrested and needed somebody to post bail and spring me from prison. Well, I don't really know if I had to post bond or just pay a fine but you get the gist. A lot of people would have rejoiced. Too bad things turned out okay.

I was renewing my car insurance and registration and one of the insurance requirements was my traffic history. So after paying the fees at the Guma Hustitia, I was directed to "Door No. 1" to obtain my traffic history. Cut and dried, right? Only to be informed, almost apologetically, by the staff that there was an outstanding bench warrant for my arrest due to an unpaid traffic violation. Well, powder me with sugar and call me a doughnut but I was floored! A friend who was helping me with the registration had the same experience last year and was handcuffed on the spot, so images of me in cuffs went flashing through my mind like a five-second video reel. And since I currently use an assistive device to get around, the thought of being led away in cuffs while I'm holding on to a cane and trying to keep my balance set off laugh tracks in my mind like a ghastly scene from a sitcom.

I racked my brain as to what traffic ticket I had left unpaid and I came up with nothing. I asked when the traffic ticket was issued and was told that it dated back to 2014! I do remember getting a ticket then as one of my headlights had conked out but I distinctly remember settling that by paying the fine. I remember because I had just gotten my rebate check and felt bad about using that money to pay off the fine. But that was three years ago! I have already thrown away my receipt for that transaction. How come the issue is just coming up now?

Thankfully, the Guma Hustitia staff checked with somebody else on the phone and, thankfully, that other person had a record of me paying the fine, together with the official receipt number. So whew! If I could whistle, I would have whistled with relief. The staff cleared my record, gave me my traffic history, and sent me on my way. Hopefully, the same problem doesn't crop up when I renew my registration next year but, had I been arrested, I could just imagine composing the headline—Tribune editor…arrested!

■■■

Next up was renewing my car registration at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. In fairness, that process was fast, with my friend getting in and out in record time (I stayed in the car and waited for him).

Thank God for mobile data as the next transaction took much longer than expected. I was almost done with the day's New York Times crossword puzzle before he returned. I was applying for a vehicle plate card that would allow me to use the blue parking space for people with disabilities and I had a doctor's certificate for that but I was told that my friend, who submitted my request to BMV, was asked if the application was for a U.S. citizen. Regardless of whether I am or not, I don't think that is supposed to be part of the process. I don't think federal law allows anyone to ask that question; it verges too close to discrimination.

I did eventually get the plate but the process that was supposed to be an open-and-shut case took much longer than anticipated and appeared like a violation of federal rule. It's like when somebody calls me on the phone to verify the employability of a former employee. There are some questions where I respond that federal law prohibits me from answering them. Still, to have a CNMI government employee ask a question about my immigration status made it appear as if having a plate that would allow me to park in a blue parking lot is a privilege reserved only for citizens. The fact that I would lose in a rapid-walking contest does not play into it. And no, I don't feel entitled. I don't feel slighted by the fact that many able-bodied people now get away with parking in handicapped zones.

■■■

Of course my mini-drama is nothing to the tragedy of other, much bigger things that are happening on the world stage. On the one hand, the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya that has driven nearly 400,000 to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh in the past three weeks makes one despair about the cruelty of man against his fellow men. Then you have news about the escalating threat of an attack from North Korea, with the dismaying projection that the reclusive nation is at the cusp of developing nuclear weapons. Against that backdrop was Friday's end of the NASA's Cassini spacecraft when it made a fiery, final dive into the planet Saturn after an astonishing journey of 20 years. In between were news of a terrorist attack in London, violent protests in St. Louis, American diplomats being sickened in Cuba, and more tropical storm warnings elsewhere in the world. Makes you wanna wish for a dose of fake news, right?

Nature isn't on a rampage. We are

By CYNTHIA BARNETT
Los Angeles Times

Cynthia Barnett is the author of three books on water including Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*. She is environmental journalist in residence at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times*.*

In 1927, as the muddy waters of the Mississippi River began to recede from what was then the deadliest storm-related flood in American history, blues musicians wailed their sorrow and rage. Blind Lemon Jefferson recorded his "Rising High Water Blues" that May:

Children stand there screamin': Mama we ain't got no home
Awww, Mama we ain't got no home
Papa says to the children, "Backwater left us all alone."

The gut-wrenching disaster, and others that swept through the Mississippi's fast-populating basin in the early 20th century, led to more blues devoted to rain and flood than any other natural event. But Papa was wrong: It wasn't the water that left families homeless and alone.

Under pressure to allow development of the Mississippi's natural floodplain that once absorbed nearly half the nation's rainfall, Congress had ignored Progressive Era wisdom that flood control required a mix of reservoirs, levees and preserved wetlands and forests. Instead, lawmakers caved to a levees-only strategy that ushered in what the flood-law scholar Christine A. Klein calls "a century of unnatural disaster."

We've long sung our blues, conjured our demons and imagined our enemies in deluges and sky-darkening storms. Even today we imbue the atmosphere with evil intention, like how we once saw swamps as villainous forces. This way of thinking about storms leaves us feeling helpless and also off the hook: The problem is the weather, rather than human decisions that impede safety and drainage, or deny the climate science we need to better understand the atmosphere, including record-breaking tropical storms.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma did not surprise climate scientists, who have grown hoarse warning that the warming seas and atmosphere will amplify hurricanes and other natural disasters. And yet, media and meteorologists dubbed the exceptional cyclones "monsters," as if they were spun from a fairy tale rather than hotter-than-usual ocean waters. We have cried "beast" and "zombie storm," watching Irma break global wind speed records and Harvey the U.S. record for greatest rainfall in a single storm. Fear, perhaps, returns us to the ancient superstitions that named these storms after Huracan, the Carib god of evil.

In his new film on the climate change crisis, "An Inconvenient Sequel," Al Gore describes the extremes that have drowned cities from Baton Rouge to Bangladesh as "rain bombs," suggesting an angry god throwing down torrential rains and ruinous floods.

Last year, when Stu Ostro, a meteorologist with the Weather Channel, saw a smiling skull in Hurricane Matthew on infrared satellite imagery, its creepy eye over Haiti, he posted the "sinister-looking face" to Twitter. The skull went viral. The Weather Channel, CNN and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution all assigned reporters to the "story." Many TV broadcast meteorologists took precious air time to feature it.

We writers are not immune. I was taken aback by this line in a favorite reporter's story: "The weather appears to be on an unprecedented climate-change-induced rampage."

But weather is not sinister. It is not on a rampage. It is not the bomb.

In the history of humans and their climate, such misplaced attribution has led to our most profound mistakes. In medieval times, people became convinced during the weather extremes of the Little Ice Age that witches were conjuring the storms. As frightening weather intensified, so did witch trials, torture and executions of thousands of innocent people accused of "weather magic."

Two hundred years later, British parliament quashed pioneering storm forecasts under pressure from those who thought that the ability to foretell rain was black magic _ a fear flamed by ship salvagers who worried predictions would cut into shipwrecks, and their profits. The brilliant Royal Navy vice-admiral who developed the advanced warnings, Robert Fitzroy, committed suicide in the wake of the merciless doubt.

In mid-20th century America, from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to the Everglades of Florida, federal engineers hyped up water as "the fierce, uncompromising enemy." The propaganda film "Waters of Destiny" breathlessly describes the Army Corps of Engineers' massive replumbing of the Everglades to save South Florida from "devastating, ruining, havoc-wreaking rains."

In fact, it was the compulsion to vanquish an enemy rather than live in water's balance that put future generations in grave danger.

Soft rains, torrents and even hurricanes are part of that balance. Hurricanes are essentially giant engines that transfer heat from sea to atmosphere. Scientists are working hard to understand the extent to which global warming may fuel them. Yet at this most crucial time, the Trump administration has purged climate experts, research funding and even the science itself from public websites as if we were back in the witchcraft days.

Lessening the blows of both storm disasters and climate change requires us to see the cycle rather than the Cyclops. Failure to do so will cause more of the same catastrophic destruction and human suffering now occurring in Texas, the Caribbean and Florida.

We are not powerless. Unlike hapless children in a blues song or a fairy tale, there is plenty we can do. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has said that a hurricane emergency is not the time to talk about climate change. To the contrary, it is just the time to draw the nation to the conversation. In recovery mode, we can remake cities to better withstand storms _ in ways that help us reduce the carbon emissions warming the planet. We can plan retreat from those parts of the coast becoming unsafe for people. And we can hike investment in the science of climate change so that we can understand, rather than fear.

By putting the evil eye on nature, we take it off the humans who have science in their hands, but hold it behind their backs. The rain is not the bomb. The storms are not the monsters. The weather is not on a rampage. That would be us.

WAR

From Page 10

mer Vietnamese soldiers who seemed comfortable telling their stories. Many Americans also participated.

The Vietnam era was polarizing and it was agonizing, spawning political upheaval and a cultural revolution in the U.S. Burns believes the war unleashed an era of partisanship the nation reckons with today. In all, the Vietnam War provides enduring lessons, but also puzzles. How is it that four decades after the morass of Vietnam, America is 16 years into another long-running, problematic war, this one in Afghanistan? What does that say about the significance of studying history?

"War is revealing" and "human nature doesn't change" are how Burns answers those questions. "Human nature superimposes itself on the seemingly random chaos of events that take place. By having historical awareness, you can probably have a better perspective on the moment."

For that reason among others, "Vietnam" is worth watching.

(c)2017 *Chicago Tribune*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.
▲87° ▼77°

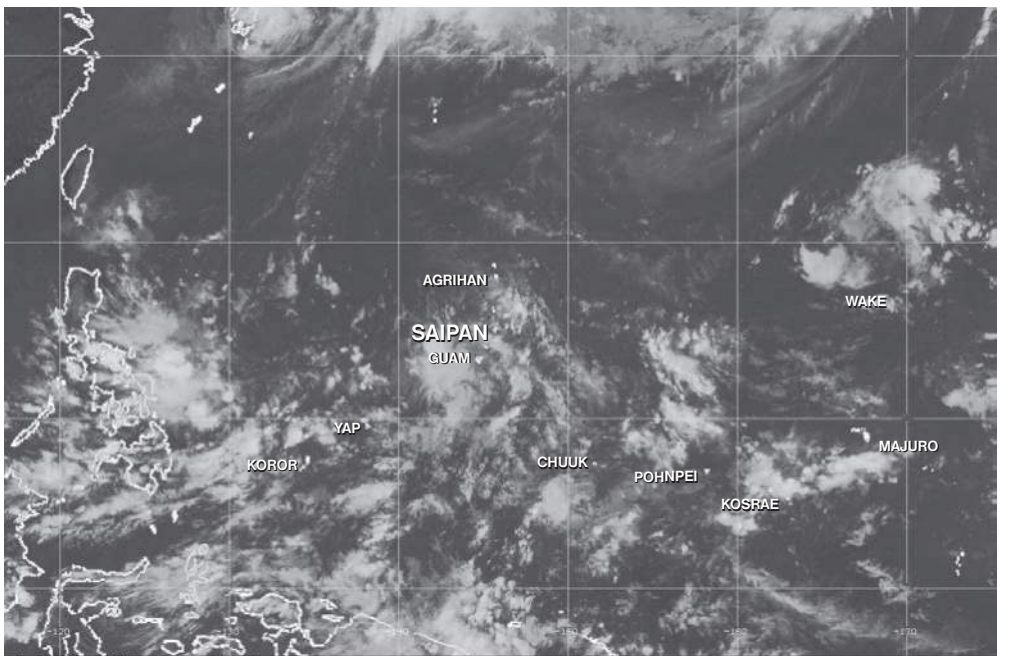
TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunder-storms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲90° ▼79°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲90° ▼79°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:35 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Both GFS and ECMWF show the circulation west of the islands washing out during the day today, with scattered showers out northwest of the Marianas and decreasing. The next trough due to come by Tuesday night and Wednesday is looking weaker in the latest models, but have retained scattered showers during that period for now. In any case, isolated thunderstorms should show up at times in the coming week in a generally moist and unstable atmosphere typical of wet season.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 59°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 55°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:04 AM	LOW TIDE	0.89
5:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
12:20 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.11
6:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:59 am	4:53 pm	-
Tuesday	4:56 am	5:39 pm	-
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:23 PM	-
Thursday	6:43 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	7:35 am	7:46 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Domenech confirmed as assistant secretary for Insular Areas

WASHINGTON—U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has applauded the Senate's confirmation of Interior Department veteran Douglas William Domenech as assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas.

Domenech was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last Friday and will be sworn-in in the coming days. President Trump nominated him in June.

In a statement yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres congratulated Domenech on his confirmation and thanked Nik Pula, whom he described as "a long time friend" and partner of the Northern Mariana Islands and territories, for serving as the acting assistant secretary for Insular Affairs.

"Doug has wide ranging and notable experience with the U.S. Insular Areas and brings with him the understanding of the many unique issues facing our islands and has specific understanding of the people and culture of the Northern Mariana Islands," said Torres. "It is one of the many reasons why I wrote to President Trump, endorsing his nomination in June."

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) also sent Domenech her congratulations. "I had an opportunity meet with Mr. Domenech following his nomination to discuss the unique challenges that face Guam and the other U.S. territories. I appreciated his commitment to working with me to address these challenges, especially Compact impact, cultural preservation, economic development, and infrastructure improvements, and I invited him and [Zinke]to visit Guam to understand these challenges firsthand."

Zinke said he is excited "to officially welcome Doug back to the department to lead the administration's initiatives in the insular areas.

"Doug's confirmation could not come soon enough for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico who are rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Irma. I'm excited to put him to work for them and all our brothers and sisters across the insular areas.

Pula resumes his duties as the director of Insular Affairs for his time and service as the acting assistant secretary for Insular Areas."

"It is a great responsibility and honor to accept this important position which helps bridge the distance and raise awareness about the insular areas to decision makers in Washington, D.C." said Domenech. "Islands governments face the basic challenge of higher costs and limited resources as they serve the people. Recent catastrophic events surrounding Hurricane Irma only heighten these challenges."

The Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular Areas coordinates federal policy for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI. In addition, the Office is responsible for administering and overseeing U.S. Compact grant assistance to the freely associated states of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Domenech's family is from Puerto Rico.

His nomination was endorsed by four governors of the U.S. territories: U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp, American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, and Torres. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
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E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-007
MAINTENANCE POWER SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Maintenance Manpower Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, Aug 28th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Acting Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed construction and operation of the Tinian Ferry Terminal Building project on San Jose, Tinian. The Bridge Investment Group (BIG) is proposing to build on six parcels of land that were leased from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a one-story commercial building with public restrooms, office space, a shop, restaurant, parking lot, and a clock tower.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Monday, October 02, 2017, at 5PM at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Ferry Terminal Building project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

TO AGRIPINA I. GIODA AND MICHAEL J. GIODA:

You are in default in your Grant conversion Agreement dated January 14, 2011, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of July 13, 2005, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 264, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Grant conversion Agreement and Mortgage:
Grant conversion Agreement dated January 14, 2011;
Mortgage dated July 13, 2005; $42,324.19

(c)	Amount due for principal:	$42,324.19
(d)	Amount due for interest:	-0-
(e)	Daily accruing interest:	-0-
(f)	Late charges	-0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges $42,324.19, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicates above.

This notice is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple I kontratan debimu (Grant Conversion Agreement) ni un fitma gi Enero dia 14, 2011, ni afabobot I Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fotma yan un entrega I empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeneň (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 264 ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan, Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 750 kuadro metro, mas pat menus mas anok gi Dibision Tano yan Mididan Tano ofisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 06 gi Disiembre 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numiro 93-4414, guihi I diskripsion ni ma incorporate guinin ginen I infomatsion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña:
Grant Conversion Agreement gi Enero 14, 2011;
Mortgage gi Julio 13, 2005; $42,324.19

(c)	Kantida un debi para principat:	$42, 324.19
(d)	Kantida un debi para interes:	-0-
(e)	Interes kada dia:	-0-
(f)	Apas pot atrasao (late charges)	-0-

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $42,324.19 yan I resanable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halon trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ňa pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infofoftma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta informasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I kata-mu gi halon trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na notisia para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi mu. Masega hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siňa bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ
Attorney at Law

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: August 24, 2017

II. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
- A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
  1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel & Roadways
  2. IPI Personnel - Training and Recruitment of U.S. Workers & Employee Compensation
  3. Responsible Gaming Program
  4. Other Miscellaneous Matters
- B. Other Matters:

V. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Big Bang Entertainment, LLC – Regular Junket Operator License (2-Year License)
  * Operator: Du Young Jang
- B. Revenue Sharing Option & Rebate Agreement – Request for Approval

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Proposed Amendments to the Casino Regulations:
  1. §175-10.1-595(a),(b) Additional Documents for Ongoing Financial Suitability.
  2. §175-10.1-920(b)(4) Licensee Standards.
  3. §175-10.1-1501 Commencement of Complaint.
  4. §175-10.1-1510 Notice of Defense.
  5. §175-10.1-1805(b) Grounds for Disciplinary Action.
  6. §175-10.1-1830(c) Reports of Violations and of Felony Conviction.
  7. §175-10.1-1855(d),(e) Collection of Gaming Debt.
  8. §175-10.1-2535(c) Determination of Offense Level.
  9. §175-10.1-2555 No Hearing Necessary For Determinations.
- B. Proposed Permanent Adoption of Casino Regulations:
  1. §175-10.1-635 Initial Gaming Facility.
  2. §175-10.1-801 Temporary Live Training Facility Authorized.
  3. §175-10.1-815 Cessation of Live Training Facility.
  4. §175-10.1-1305 Service Provider and Vendor License Requirements.
  5. §175-10.1-1390 Casino Vendor License.
  6. §175-10.1-1830 Reports of Violations and of Felony Convictions.
  7. §175-10.1-2001 Approval of Chips and Tokens; Applications and Procedures
- C. Approval of Regular Casino Key Employee License (2-Year License):
  1. Mr. He, Jianhao ("Rex") – Senior Gaming Data Analyst
  2. Mr. Wang, Shyun Han ("Vince") – Assistant Director of Surveillance Technical
- D. Approval of Regular Casino Service Provider License (2-Year License):
  - Dallmeier Electronic Gmbh & Co KG: Surveillance Systems. Provisional License will expire on 10/06/2017.
- E. Notification of Provisional Non-Gaming Vendor Licenses:
  1. HCCG Building & Civil Engineering (Saipan) Ltd: General Construction (Exp. 06/13/2018)
  2. Lasvit Incorporated: Installation of Art Light Fixtures (Exp. 07/12/2018)
  3. Ocean Construction (CNMI) Co. Ltd: Real Estate/General Construction (Exp. 07/13/2018)
  4. Haitian Construction Group (CNMI) Corp: General Construction (Exp. 07/24/2018)
  5. Winzy Corporation (dba: RAD General Construction): Installation Fire Alarms Services (Exp. 7/24/2018)
  6. Sanderia Group Ltd (dba: Redfin Aquarium Design): Manufacturer of Acrylic Aquarium (Exp. 7/25/2018)
  7. Grandland Group (CNMI) Ltd: General Construction & Design (Exp. 08/03/2018)
  8. Hawaiian Rock Product Corp: Ready-mixed Concrete and Aggregate (Exp. 08/21/2018)
  9. Dragon Cheng Pacific Corp: Gen Construction Contractor & Rental (Exp. 08/21/2018)
- F. CNMI Senate Standing Committee on Gaming:
  1. CCC response to the Committee request for follow-up information
  2. Scheduled Tour of IPR: September 22, 2017 (Time:TBA)
  3. Other Matters

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. Report by the Legal Counsel
- B. Report by the CCC Audit Manager
- C. IPI Financial Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Rota festival highlights coconuts' value

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROTA—The island of Rota celebrated the 3rd Luta Coconut Festival over the weekend, highlighting the tree's deep role in the lives of the people of Rota and the varied dishes that are nourished and made tastier by its fruit.

From root to tips, the coconut tree is not just a tree of life but also a way of life and this year's festival was no different, with a theme—"Coconut for You and Me"—that seeks to pass knowledge and appreciation of the tree to the next generation.

"The idea is to continue to promote and encourage the kids to protect our coconut trees and to make use of it, and to expand it by planting new seeds because there are a lot of ways that people can make money out of it," said special assistant for program and grants Aubey Hocog.

"We just want to find different ways and provide opportunities for the community to use the resources that we have on island to better the lives of the families on Rota," she added.

The festival, celebrated this year from Sept. 12 to 16, is the 3rd time that the Coconut Festival was celebrated on Rota.

Participants in the coconut husking contest show their skills. BEA CABRERA

Contestants in the coconut grating race to the finish. BEA CABRERA

"The Coconut Festival started with the former mayor [Joseph S.] Inos and our current mayor wanted to…continue that tradition…because this event has been proven to be a great way to promote the uses and benefits of the coconut, not only to the current generation but also to our younger generation," Hocog said.

The Coconut Festival this year is not only a one-day affair. The people of Rota have made it a weeklong affair to be able to do different activities that appeal to them.

According to Hocog, this year is a weeklong event that started with a proclamation signing last Sept 12. The following day, schools, the Rota municipal government and government agencies involved were given designated sites where they planted coconut seedlings.

"This was so to continue to expand the population of coconut trees on Rota," Hocog said.

"On Wednesday, we encouraged all our youth and people to wear something made out of coconut, whether it's a skirt, a purse, or a hat or even just to hold maybe a little decoration that is made out of the coconut to show how resourceful we can be."

Last Friday, children got to show off their talents and skills by joining a series of musical competitions.

According to Hocog, each governement department either had a demonstration or exhibit on what they can make out of coconut. "We had all the students from the schools watch, learn and participate."

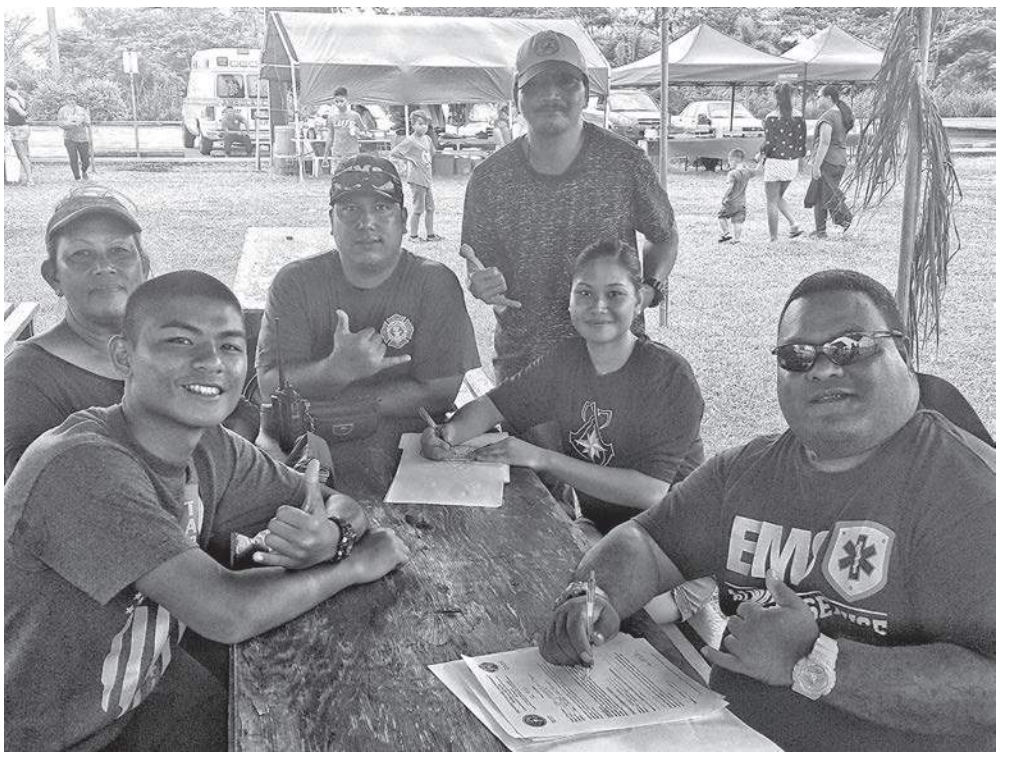
Saturday, the final day of the festival, showcased competitions such as coconut husking, grating, presentation of dishes made with coconut milk, a coconut crab race, and the culmination and judging of the coconut fashion show that was held last Thursday.

"The fashion show was the most exciting event. People lookied forward to it. We [drew] 11 creative participants. This is the category where we encourage kids to make use of the coconuts as part of their wardrobe. The kids are excited as it lets them be creative," Hocog said.

"We will end the festival with the awarding of the winners," she added.

"Rota is isolated compared to Saipan and Tinian so we try to find very unique opportunities for people to come because Rota has a lot to offer. We try to increase the desire for people to come and visit," Hocog said.

Young boys show their talent in singing at the Rota Coconut Festival held Saturday. BEA CABRERA



Personnel of the Rota Department of Public Safety helped organize the festival. BEA CABRERA

Vendors provide food and drinks for the crowd. BEA CABRERA

A judge tastes one of the dishes at the Rota best coconut dish contest. BEA CABRERA

These two women show off their best coconut dish entry. BEA CABRERA

CHCC looking for medical malpractice insurance

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is currently looking for insurance companies that would provide medical malpractice insurance to Commonwealth Health Center physicians. CHC doctors used to be under the protection of the Government Liability Act until it was ruled unconstitutional by a trial court.

At a CHCC board meeting last Sept. 13, legal counsel Nancy Gottfried told the board that all CNMI insurance companies were asked what it would take in order for them to offer medical malpractice to CHC's physicians, "based on no substitution of parties, no damages cap, allow punitive damages and allow jury trial."

The search for malpractice insurance for the CHC doctors stemmed from a malpractice lawsuit filed by couple Remedio Elameto and Pedro Pua against the CNMI government and doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iyer.

In a statement, CHCC CEO Esther Muña said there is no actual medical malpractice insurance for physicians at the hospital. "The physicians that we have recruited usually ask that question when they come to work at CHCC because they know that they cannot buy medical insurance," she said.

The usual explanation as to why no medical malpractice insurance is readily available in the CNMI is because the islands' risk pool is "too small."

"When you calculate what we have—doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners—then add the private providers, we only have some 50 [doctors] and that is a small number. That is why we don't have enough risk pool for insurance companies to take in," Muna said.

The Government Liability Act stands in place of medical insurance for CHC doctors in the CNMI. However, the Act's constitutionality is currently being questioned and is now under litigation.

Muña is hopeful that CHCC will be accommodated by insurance companies. "Markets change and maybe there is really somebody out there who can accommodate us but, again, this will not be our first time to inquire about insurance."

According to Gottfried, there are many challenges when operating a hospital in a remote island but they will be investigating the possibility of obtaining malpractice insurance for all doctors practicing here.

"We would like to hear from the insurance companies what conditions they would like to see in the request for proposals. In the event we don't get responses, we will be following up by phone calls," Gottfried said.

Federal court dismisses ex-speaker Babauta from racketeering lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has dropped former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta as one of the defendants in a racketeering lawsuit filed by a businessman and his former company.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Babauta's motion to dismiss all claims against him in the lawsuit filed by Il Hwan Kim and KSA Corp.

According to the minutes of a recent hearing, the dismissal is with prejudice, which means Kim and KSA Corp. can no longer re-file the claims against Babauta.

Manglona said that, after reviewing the complaint and the plaintiffs' response, it's been determined that the complaint lacks specific facts to support the claims against Babauta.

The judge said that Kim has had enough time to cure these deficiencies and this was indicated to the Kim's lawyer back in June 2016, a week or so after the complaint was served on Babauta.

Manglona said that Kim and KSA have yet to submit any factual basis to support an amendment of the complaint.

Attorney Rene Holmes stated they were counsel of record now for plaintiffs and this was never pointed out to her before.

The F. Matthew Smith law firm used to be counsel for Kim and KSA. Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons served as counsel for Babauta.

Holmes and attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for another defendant, Ramon S. Salas, apprised the court regarding discovery issues.

Manglona set a new bench trial for Feb. 28, 2018.

In Babauta's motion to dismiss, Timmons asserted that the court lacks jurisdiction because Babauta had legislative immunity and qualified immunity.

Last March, Kim and KSA Corp., through counsel Jennifer Dockter, requested the court to issue a default judgment against Babauta's three other co-defendants: Hun Jin An, Jeong Eun Tack, and Joann P. Hensley.

Dockter said An, Tack and Hensley continue to fail to respond to the case.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Kim and KSA Corp. sued the defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act and other causes of action.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

DPS still awaiting OAG's decision in alleged police brutality case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The two police officers who were caught on video beating a habitual offender who had engaged the police in a 40-minute car chase on Saipan last December are still doing administrative duties at the Department of Public Safety, pending the decision of the Office of the Attorney General about their case.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said they have been waiting for the OAG's decision whether to prosecute the two officers or not.

He identified the officers as Stanley Patris and Giancarlo Evangelista.

The commissioner said they already submitted the report of the DPS investigation to the OAG last December.

"I cannot hold the guys in limbo forever," Guerrero said.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas said she is still reviewing the DPS report and should have an answer shortly.

» Prosecutor says they will have an answer shortly

Then-assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley used to handle the OAG's White Collar Crime and Public Corruption division. Baisley moved back to Colorado last July.

Guerrero said that Patris and Evangelista were not among the 90 officers he had just promoted.

Patris and Evangelista were not suspended pending the OAG's decision.

Last June, Guerrero told the media that the result of their investigation has already been forwarded to the OAG.

"Like everybody else, I am still waiting to see what will happen," Guerrero said in that June interview. At that time, he refused to divulge the identity of the two officers.

Last May, Vincent San Nicolas Norita, 32, entered a guilty plea to 18 traffic offenses and was slapped with the maximum sentence of nine years in prison.

In the evening of Dec. 9, 2016, Norita drove a car on the highways at dangerous speeds while eluding police officers, disobeying traffic signs, failing to signal, and driving with a willful or wanton disregard to the safety of persons or property which caused an accident.

Norita drove the car over 100 miles per hour from Chalan Laulau to Garapan, to Tanapag, back to Garapan, Chinatown, Chalan Laulau, and to Koblerville, where he eventually crashed at an embankment in Koblerville in the evening of Dec. 9, 2016. The car overturned.

The car chase went viral after a bystander took a video of a police officer, who appeared to be hitting Norita repeatedly with a baton or stick as he lay on the ground.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services disclosed that upon medics' assessment at the scene, the driver, Norita, stated he had pain on the back of his right shoulder blade.

DFEMS said Norita, who was uncooperative, also sustained three small cuts on the forehead and a half-inch cut on the left leg.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International Ltd., through its Corporate Social Responsibility program, has been a partner of the Commonwealth through various community-and environment-related programs. Among others, the School Pride Project, launched two years ago, assists all of the Commonwealth's public school in ensuring that facilities are conducive to learning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI's CSR work is done in partnership with other agencies and organizations, both private and public.

Business

US coastal growth continues despite lessons of past storms

Rising sea levels and fierce storms have failed to stop relentless population growth along U.S. coasts in recent years, a new Associated Press analysis shows. The latest punishing hurricanes scored bull's-eyes on two of the country's fastest growing regions: coastal Texas around Houston and resort areas of southwest Florida.

Nothing seems to curb America's appetite for life near the sea, especially in the warmer climates of the South. Coastal development destroys natural barriers such as islands and wetlands, promotes erosion and flooding, and positions more buildings and people in the path of future destruction, according to researchers and policy advisers who study hurricanes.

"History gives us a lesson, but we don't always learn from it," said Graham Tobin, a disaster researcher at the University of South Florida in Tampa. That city took a glancing hit from Hurricane Irma - one of the most intense U.S. hurricanes in years - but suffered less flooding and damage than some other parts of the state.

In 2005, coastal communities took heed of more than 1,800 deaths and $108 billion in damages from Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst disasters in U.S. history. Images of New Orleans under water elicited solemn resolutions that such a thing should never happen again—until

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2017, photo, a house with its roof blown off by Hurricane Irma in Summerland Key, in the Florida Keys.

Superstorm Sandy inundated lower Manhattan in 2012. Last year, Hurricane Matthew spread more deaths, flooding and blackouts across Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. From 2010-2016, major hurricanes and tropical storms are blamed for more than 280 deaths and $100 billion in damages, according to data from the federal National Centers for Environmental Information.

Harvey, another historically big hurricane, flooded sections of Houston in recent weeks. Four counties around Houston, where growth has been buoyed by the oil business, took the full force of the storm. The population of those counties expanded by 12 percent from 2010 to 2016, to a total of 5.3 million people, the AP analysis shows.

During the same years, two of Florida's fastest-growing coastline counties—retirement-friendly Lee and Manatee, both south of Tampa—welcomed 16 percent more people. That area took a second direct hit from Irma after it made first landfall in the Florida Keys, where damage was far more devastating.

Overall growth of 10 percent in Texas Gulf counties and 9 percent along Florida's coasts during the same period was surpassed only by South Carolina. Its seaside population, led by the Myrtle Beach area of Horry County, ballooned by more than 13 percent.

Nationally, coastline counties grew an average of 5.6 percent since 2010, while inland counties gained just 4 percent. This recent trend tracks with decades of development along U.S. coasts. Between 1960 and 2008, the national coastline population rose by 84 percent, compared with 64 percent inland, according to the Census Bureau.

Cindy Gerstner, a retiree from the inland mountains of upstate New York, moved to a new home in January in Dunedin, Florida, west of Tampa. The ranch house sits on a flood plain three blocks from a sound off the Gulf of Mexico. She was told it hadn't flooded in 20 years—and she wasn't worried anyway.

"I never gave it a thought," she said during a visit back to New York as Irma raked Florida. "I always wanted to live down there. I always thought people who lived in California on earthquake faults were foolish."

Doubts arise on whether corporate tax cut would boost growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—For President Donald Trump, what's good for General Motors is great for American workers. Same for Boeing. And AT&T. Not to mention small businesses.

Trump insists that slashing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to as low as 15 percent would free up valuable cash. Companies would use the money to boost investment, increase employees' pay, accelerate hiring and speed economic growth. What's more, corporations that now keep trillions overseas to avoid U.S. taxes would bring the money home. American companies could better compete with rivals based in countries with lower tax rates.

"We're going to have magnificent growth," Trump declared aboard Air Force One on Thursday. "We're going to go like a rocket ship."

Would we? Many economists, tax experts and even some business owners say it's unlikely. Rather than hire, companies might use much of their tax savings to buy back their stock or increase their dividends to investors. Many companies, they note, have already been able to borrow at historically low rates to expand their businesses yet have chosen not to.

"The mainstream economic evidence is that the bulk of corporate tax cuts go exactly to whom you would expect—which is wealthy investors and executives," said Chye-Ching Huang, deputy director of federal tax policy at the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Many economists foresee some benefits from overhauling and simplifying the corporate tax code, just not the extreme growth Trump is promising.

One reason corporate tax cuts might provide little overall benefit is the relative health of today's economy. Unemployment is already unusually low at 4.4 percent. The economy is in the ninth year of a slow but steady expansion, rather than in a downturn in which tax cuts might deliver a major boost.

In a 2014 paper, two economists - Alexander Ljungqvist of New York University and Michael Smolyansky of the Federal Reserve - concluded that state corporate tax cuts did little to strengthen economic activity unless the cuts were made during a recession. (The flip side is that they found corporate tax increases to be "uniformly harmful.")

Nor have previous efforts to reduce corporate taxes generally delivered as advertised. Kansas, for example, exempted hundreds of thousands of businesses from corporate taxes and cut individual rates in 2012, only to face a revenue squeeze as the intended economic growth never materialized.

The federal government provided a tax "holiday" on overseas profits in 2004 to bring money back into the United States at a discount to the 35 percent rate. But the Obama administration observed later that the move had diminished tax revenue and unintentionally led companies to hoard cash abroad in hopes of receiving that discount.

There is also concern that a corporate tax cut would swell the federal budget deficit. When the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center published an analysis this week, it found that even if virtually all tax breaks were eliminated, the corporate rate could drop only to 26 percent without increasing the deficit.

Still, many companies stress that lower business taxes would lead to more hiring. John Stephens, AT&T's chief financial officer, said his company faces a typical tax rate of 34 percent—including federal, state, foreign and deferred taxes—in any given year.

Stephens estimates that lower rates would lead the company to immediately invest more money in its phone network, which he said would lead to more hiring by companies that work with AT&T.

"When we buy more equipment, our vendors hire more," Stephens said. "When we build more extensive networks, we have people—hard-hat jobs—building those networks."

The AT&T executive added that "anything" would be an improvement on the current corporate tax rate of 35 percent.

But like many corporations, AT&T also benefited substantially from tax breaks between 2008 and 2015, saving as much as than $38 billion, according to an analysis by the left-leaning Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. The administration has yet to spell out all the possible tax breaks that would be eliminated to pay for lower rates.

Harvey sends US industrial production down most in 8 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. industrial output plunged 0.9 percent in August, the most in eight years, mostly because of Hurricane Harvey's damage to the oil refining, plastics and chemicals industries.

The storm, which slammed into the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana late last month, lowered industrial production by about 0.75 percentage point, the Federal Reserve said Friday. That suggests production would have slipped without the hurricane.

The Gulf Coast is home to many of the nation's oil refiners, and petroleum is a key component in the manufacturing of plastics and chemicals.

Manufacturing has picked up since last summer as the dollar has fallen in value, which makes U.S. goods cheaper overseas, boosting exports. Manufacturing production fell 0.3 percent last month, though the Fed said that without the hurricane, it would have increased roughly 0.5 percent.

And a survey of manufacturing firms that preceded Harvey found that factory activity rose to a six-year high in August.

Still, the report illustrates how Harvey has disrupted the wider U.S. economy. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the data included signs of weakness, even excluding the impact of Harvey.

"The August decline was widespread, with only the auto industry surprisingly gaining in the month," she said.

Lee cut her estimate for third-quarter growth to 2 percent at an annual rate, from an earlier forecast of 2.4 percent. A drop in retail spending last month was also a factor. But she also expects growth to rebound in the fourth quarter as rebuilding from Harvey and Irma gets underway.

Nation

Shadows of secrecy begin to spread across federal government

AP
In this Sept. 15, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump waves as he walks from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington to Marine One for the short trip to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

WASHINGTON (AP)—There are cracks in the curtains President Donald Trump tried to draw around the government early in his presidency, but the slivers of light aren't making it easier to hold federal officials accountable for their actions.

Trump still refuses to divest from his real estate and hotel empire or release virtually any of his tax returns. His administration is vigorously pursuing whistleblowers. Among scores of vacant senior jobs in the government is an inspector general for the Department of Energy—led by Secretary Rick Perry, former governor of Texas—as it helps drive the region's recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

Rebuilding from the deadly storm seems certain to be a $100 billion-plus endeavor involving multiple federal departments and an army of government contractors. If the ghosts of Katrina, Sandy and other big storms are guides, the bonanza of taxpayer dollars is a recipe for corruption. And that makes transparency and accountability all the more critical for a president who has bristled at the suggestion of either one.

"This is an administration that wants to do things their own way and a president that wants to do things his own way," said Rick Blum, director of News Media for Open Government, of which The Associated Press is a member. "(Trump) is frustrated by the institutions our founders established. And he's going to have to learn that the public deserves a free and independent press."

To be sure, Trump has not backed off his fury with the media or his branding of reporters as "enemies of the people" who want to harm the country. He still calls revelations he doesn't like "fake news." And he tweets untruths himself, including that he witnessed Harvey's devastation "first hand" during his first visit to Texas on the edges of the disaster zone.

Still, a new slate of top aides, including White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and presidential spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders, seems to have opened pinpricks of light and lowered the temperature in the daily White House briefing.

Trump has let fade his threat to scrap the daily question-and-answer sessions in favor of written questions and responses since the dismissals of Reince Priebus, Sean Spicer and Steve Bannon from his inner circle. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos gave the AP an interview about education policy.

"President Trump and his administration are committed to transparency and accountability throughout the government," the White House said in a statement issued Saturday to The Associated Press. "The administration is responsive to public records requests, instituted new lobbying standards for political appointees—including a five-year ban on lobbying and a lifetime ban on lobbying for foreign countries—and expanded and elevated ethics within the White House Counsel's office."

Still, questions persist about how committed the administration will be in making its actions transparent. This past week, open government and First Amendment advocates criticized the administration's response to a lawsuit that sought the visitor logs for the president's Mar-A-Lago resort in Florida. They said it's important for the public to know who has access there to the president, who has made seven trips to his property this year.

Officials: Returning Keys residents must be self-sustaining

MIAMI (AP)—As the devastated Florida Keys began reopening to residents who fled Hurricane Irma, officials warned the returning islanders to bring enough supplies to sustain them for a while, because no one yet knows when water and power will be fully restored.

"The Keys are not what you left several days ago when you evacuated. Electricity, sewer and water are intermittent at best," said Monroe County Mayor George Neugent during a news conference Saturday.

Officials opened up U.S. 1 on Saturday all the way south to Marathon for residents, business owners, disaster workers and supply trucks. They also announced plans to let the same groups have access all the way to Key West starting at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Recovery efforts are well underway with the Salvation Army planning to serve 5,000 barbecue dinners Saturday night in Marathon and Key West, marking the first hot meals for many since Irma made landfall nearly a week ago.

Roads were being cleared and recovery centers are being set up in the area to help residents fill out FEMA, insurance and small business relief paperwork. Even Publix was open until 5 p.m. on Friday.

Officials had agonized over the decision to reopen the islands, knowing residents were desperate to assess the damage with their own eyes, yet worried about harsh living conditions for those who choose return.

Curfews remained in effect and returning residents received a clear message from Keys officials—you must be self-sufficient. They encouraged residents to bring tents, small air conditioning units, food, water and medications.

Officials said their detailed hurricane plan didn't account for some unique challenges brought by Irma, which nearly wiped out parts of the middle Keys, while Key West remained in decent shape.

Getting Key West residents and businesses owners to the southernmost point remained a challenge as authorities work to keep out tourists, gawkers, looters and others who could hamper recovery efforts.

Nearly two dozen checkpoints in the hardest hit areas will be heavily staffed with law-enforcement officers to check IDs to ensure only authorized residents and relief workers get through.

Meanwhile, officials said they hope to open government offices, courts and schools in the Keys on September 28.

Further north, Broward County school officials said classes would resume Monday, but in Miami-Dade County, one of the nation's largest school districts, student still don't know when they'll return to class, forcing many parents to juggle childcare as they head into a second week of recovering from Hurricane Irma.

Miami-Dade County hoped to resume operations Monday. But dozens of schools in the district are still without power. An announcement is expected this weekend. In many South Florida counties, school has not been in session since Sept. 6.

2nd night of violence in St. Louis after ex-cop acquitted

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Protests near St. Louis turned violent for the second night Saturday in reaction to the acquittal of a white former police officer in the fatal shooting of a black man, as a small group of demonstrators refused to disperse, breaking windows at dozens of businesses and throwing objects at police, who moved in with hundreds of officers in riot gear to make arrests.

The confrontation took place in the Delmar Loop area of University City, a suburb about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of St. Louis near Washington University. The area is known for concert venues, restaurants, shops and bars and includes the Blueberry Hill club where rock legend Chuck Berry played for many years.

University City had been the scene of a tense but calm march earlier in the evening to protest a judge's ruling Friday clearing ex-officer Jason Stockley of first-degree murder in the 2011 shooting of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith. That march ended with organizers calling for people to leave and reconvene Sunday afternoon.

But a few dozen protesters refused to go. Police ordered them to disperse, saying the protest was unlawful. Hundreds of police in riot gear eventually moved in with armored vehicles. The demonstrators retreated down a street, breaking windows with trash cans and throwing objects at police.

Several protesters were seen in handcuffs and city and county police tweeted that they arrested nine people. Police in riot gear were seen carrying one man away from the scene upside down in handcuffs. At least one demonstrator was treated after he was hit with pepper spray.

After the spasm of violence ended, a reporter for The Associated Press found at least half of the businesses on one side of the street with broken windows along a two block area.

Sam Thomas, who was helping his friend clean up the glass from the shattered windows of his business, OSO, a clothing and accessories boutique, said he understands why people are angry. The U.S. justice system is broken and needs to be fixed, he said.

"I'm not saying this is the right way to fix it," he said of the damage.

"The window isn't murdered. Nobody is going to have a funeral for the window. We can replace it."

The eruption late Saturday followed a day of non-violent demonstrations at suburban shopping malls.

Demonstrators shouted slogans such as "black lives matter" and "it is our duty to fight for our freedom" as they marched through West County Center mall in the city of Des Peres, west of St. Louis. A group also demonstrated at Chesterfield Mall in the suburbs and at a regional food festival.

Organizers took their grievances to the suburbs Saturday to spread the impact of the protests beyond predominantly black neighborhoods to those that are mainly white.

Asia

North Korea leader says he will complete nuke program

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country is nearing its goal of "equilibrium" in military force with the United States, as the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the North's "highly provocative" ballistic missile launch over Japan on Friday.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency carried Kim's comments on Saturday—a day after U.S. and South Korean militaries detected the missile launch from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

It traveled 3,700 kilometers (2,300 miles) as it passed over the Japanese island of Hokkaido before landing in the northern Pacific Ocean. It was the country's longest-ever test flight of a ballistic missile.

The North has confirmed the missile as an intermediate range Hwasong-12, the same model launched over Japan on Aug. 29.

Under Kim's watch, North Korea has maintained a torrid pace in weapons tests, including its most powerful nuclear test to date on Sept. 3 and two July flight tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles that could strike deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected.

The increasingly frequent and aggressive tests have added to outside fears that the North is closer than ever to building a military arsenal that could viably target the U.S. and its allies in Asia. The tests, which could potentially make launches over Japan an accepted norm, are also seen as North Korea's attempt to win greater military freedom in the region and raise doubts in Seoul and Tokyo that Washington would risk the annihilation of a U.S. city to protect them.

The KCNA said Kim expressed great satisfaction over the launch, which he said verified the "combat efficiency and reliability" of the missile and the success of efforts to increase its power.

While the English version of the report was less straightforward, the Korean version quoted Kim as declaring the missile as operationally ready. He vowed to complete his nuclear weapons program in the face of strengthening international sanctions, the agency said.

Photos published by North Korea's state media showed the missile being fired from a truck-mounted launcher and a smiling Kim clapping and raising his fist while celebrating from an observation point. It was the first time North Korea showed the missile being launched directly from a vehicle, which experts said indicated confidence about the mobility and reliability of the system. In previous tests, North Korea used trucks to transport and erect the Hwasong-12s, but moved the missiles on separate firing tables before launching them.

The U.N. Security Council accused North Korea of undermining regional peace and security by launching its latest missile over Japan and said its nuclear and missile tests "have caused grave security concerns around the world" and threaten all 193 U.N. member states.

Kim also said the country, despite "limitless" international sanctions, has nearly completed the building of its nuclear weapons force and called for "all-state efforts" to reach the goal and obtain a "capacity for nuclear counterattack the U.S. cannot cope with."

"As recognized by the whole world, we have made all these achievements despite the U.N. sanctions that have lasted for decades," the agency quoted Kim as saying.

Defense chief: PH-wide martial law 'very remote'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense secretary said Friday that President Rodrigo Duterte has considered the possibility of placing the entire country under martial rule over fears of planned left-wing protests getting out of control, but added that the prospect of such a step is "very remote."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Duterte has thought of expanding a previous declaration of martial law in the south to cover the entire Philippines due to fears the protests could spiral out of hand and threaten the government and public safety.

Lorenzana, however, belittled the capability of left-wing activists to stage massive protests nationwide. One is planned for next Thursday to mark the anniversary of the 1972 martial law declaration by late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that was associated with massive human rights violations and muzzling of civil liberties.

Asked about the prospects of such a declaration, Lorenzana quoted Duterte as saying recently, "'If the left will try to have a massive protest, they'll ignite fires in the street, they will disrupt the country, then I might.'"

Lorenzana, however, told a news conference the prospect of expanded martial law is "very remote," adding that the military and local governments have not monitored any planned massive protests by anti-government groups. "We do not have those indications in our reports," he said.

Duterte said activists can stage street protests even without government permits, and that even communist guerrillas can join as long as they don't bring their guns. He warned them, however, not to break the law. "I will not hesitate to use force even if it would mean my downfall as president of this country, remember that," Duterte said Friday on state TV.

Left-wing protests in Manila and elsewhere in recent years have been nowhere near the size of the mammoth "people power" protests that ousted Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001. A left-wing alliance, Bayan, said Duterte may be trying to spark fears to discourage people from joining its protest.

"The mass actions for the 45th anniversary of martial law are more than justified given our current worsening human rights situation and drift toward dictatorship," Bayan leader Renato Reyes said. "We do not anticipate any untoward incidents emanating from protesters."

Hundreds of activists and Muslim tribesmen opposed to Duterte's martial law declaration in the south scuffled Friday with riot police who blocked them from marching near the U.S. Embassy. Police made no arrests and the demonstrators peacefully backed away after two hours.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao in May to deal with a deadly siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants in southern Marawi city and help prevent similar uprisings elsewhere in the country's volatile south. The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance planes to help Filipino troops battling militants in Marawi.

At least 860 people, including more than 600 militants,

World

AFTER SUBWAY BOMBING

UK threat level raised to 'critical'

LONDON (AP)—A homemade bomb planted in a rush-hour subway car exploded in London on Friday, injuring 29 people and prompting authorities to raise Britain's terrorism threat level to "critical," meaning another attack may be imminent.

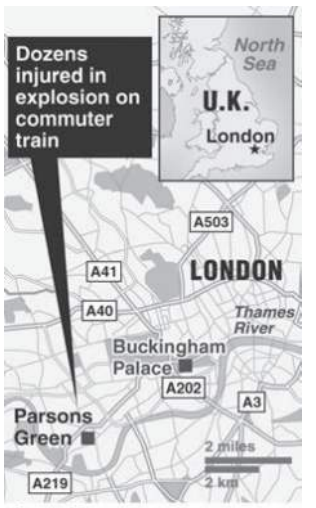
The early morning blast sparked a huge manhunt for the perpetrators of what police said was the fourth terrorist attack in the British capital this year.

Prime Minister Theresa May, acting on the recommendation of the Joint Terrorism Analysis Center, raised the country's threat level from "severe" to "critical" — its highest possible level. May said military troops would augment the police presence in a "proportionate and sensible step."

Earlier, May said the device had been "intended to cause significant harm."

Still, to the relief of authorities and Londoners, experts said the bomb — hidden in a plastic bucket inside a supermarket freezer bag — only partially exploded, sparing the city much worse carnage.

"I would say this was a failed high-explosive device," Chris Hunter, a former British army bomb expert, said of the blast, which caused no serious injuries.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which it said was carried out by an affiliated unit.

The bomb went off around 8:20 a.m. as the train, carrying commuters from the suburbs — including many school children — was at Parsons Green station in the southwest of the city.

Witness Chris Wildish told Sky News that he saw "out of the corner of my eye, a massive flash of flames that went up the side of the train," followed by "an acrid chemical smell."

Commuter Lauren Hubbard said she was on the train when she heard a loud bang.

"I looked around and this wall of fire was just coming toward us," Hubbard said. She said her instinct was "just run," and she fled the above-ground station with her boyfriend.

Chaos ensued as hundreds of people, some of them suffering burns, poured from the train, which can hold up to 800 people.

"I ended up squashed on the staircase. People were falling over, people fainting, crying. There were little kids clinging onto the back of me," said another commuter, Ryan Barnett.

Passenger Luke Walmsley said it was "like every man for himself to get down the stairs."

"People were just pushing," he added. "There were nannies or mums asking where their children were."

Police and health officials said 29 people were treated in London hospitals, most of them for flash burns. None of the injuries were serious or life-threatening, the emergency services said.

Trains were suspended along a stretch of the Underground's District Line, and several homes were evacuated as police set up a 50-meter (150-foot) cordon around the scene while they secured the device and launched a search for those who planted it.

The Metropolitan Police said hundreds of detectives, along with agents of the domestic spy agency MI5, were looking at surveillance camera footage, carrying out forensic work and speaking to witnesses.

Fatah welcomes Hamas pledge to try to end Palestinian split

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement on Sunday welcomed a pledge by its Hamas rivals to accept key conditions for ending a decade-old Palestinian political and territorial split, but said it wants to see vows implemented before making the next move.

Repeated attempts at reconciliation have failed since the militant Hamas drove forces loyal to Abbas from the Gaza Strip in 2007, a year after defeating Fatah in parliament elections. The takeover led to rival governments, with Hamas controlling Gaza and Abbas in charge of autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Earlier Sunday, Hamas announced that it has accepted key Abbas demands for ending the split. This includes holding general elections in the West Bank and Gaza, dissolving a contentious Gaza administrative committee and allowing an Abbas-led "unity government," formed in 2014 but until now unable to start operating in Gaza, to finally assume responsibility there.

The announcement came after separate talks by Hamas and Fatah delegations with Egyptian intelligence officials in Cairo in recent days.

Egypt relayed Fatah demands to Hamas that as a first step, it must dissolve the administrative committee, its de facto government in Gaza, and allow the unity government to take charge.

"We accepted that as a sign of our good will toward reconciliation," Hamas official Hussam Badran told The Associated Press.

"The administrative committee is now dissolved and the government can come to Gaza today to assume its responsibilities and duties," he said.

Mahmoud Aloul, the No. 2 in Fatah, told the Voice of Palestine radio that "this is encouraging news." However, he cautioned that "we want to see that happening on the ground before we move to the next step."

Hamas has been greatly weakened by an Israeli and Egyptian blockade, three wars with Israel and international isolation. Gaza's economy is in tatters and residents of the territory have electricity for only a few hours a day.

Still, there were no assurances that this deal would succeed where others failed.

In previous deals, including one brokered by Egypt in 2011, both sides professed willingness to reconcile, but ultimately balked at giving up power in their respective territories.

A key sticking point in the past was Hamas' refusal to place its security forces in Gaza under the control of an Abbas-led unity government.

It also was not clear how Egypt's latest effort aligns with its previous tacit support for a separate Gaza power-sharing deal between Hamas and Mohammed Dahlan, an exiled former Abbas aide-turned-rival.

Health & Fitness

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Ankle sprains are almost impossible to avoid entirely, but there are ways to reduce the risk, particularly if you understand how the ankle is put together.

"Each year over a million people have new ankle sprains, and these are just the people who came to seek medical help," says Dr. Glenn Shi, a Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon. "There are far more (sprains) that people are treating at home."

The ankle is quite a well-engineered joint, actually.

But, because it's a balancing act to carry the full weight of the body on three bones atop the foot, Shi says, "An injury can happen anytime an athlete gets on the field or to anyone just walking down the street. In fact, ankle sprains among high school athletes are the most common injury that they see."

Still, there are ways to reduce the risk, particularly if you understand how the ankle is put together.

"The ankle bone really consists of the tibia, the fibula, as well as the talus. And the talus connects to the rest of the foot. They are also connected by these ropes, which are also known as ligaments, that connect the bones together," Shi explains. "That gives us stability as well as motion, if necessary, for walking."

Twist inward, or roll your foot under, and the ligaments can be stretched or torn: a classic ankle sprain. Most sprains will heal on their own.

"However, when you have a major sprain, instability can be a problem down the road, and that can often lead to cartilage injury, as well as arthritis and pain," Shi cautions. The foot and ankle surgeon says if pain persists more than a few days, see a doctor.

His top tips for preventing ankle sprains are:

- Be more aware of foot placement on uneven ground.
- Be active and build strength for better foot control.
- And no matter your activity, don't skip your warm up.

"Stretching often conditions us and prepares us for a foot event, such as running, jogging, changing directions," says Shi. "We really need to keep ourselves limber, if you will."

For first aid at home, rest a sprained ankle for a couple of days. Apply ice four to eight times a day until the swelling improves. Compressing the ankle with an elastic wrap can help control swelling, as will elevating the injured joint higher than your heart. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

Monitoring sleep with fitness trackers

Dear Mayo Clinic: I wear a fitness device that tracks my sleep. It shows that most of my sleep is light sleep and that I rarely am in deep sleep. Is this kind of sleep tracker reliable? If so, is there a way I can get better sleep? I sleep about six or seven hours each night.

A: When it comes to identifying the difference between light sleep and deep sleep, research has shown that fitness trackers are not accurate. Rather than relying on your device to measure how well you sleep, consider basing your assessment of sleep quality on how you feel when you wake up. If you don't feel well-rested, and it's affecting your daily life, that might prompt a change in your habits or possibly a sleep evaluation.

Wearable fitness trackers and apps that claim to measure sleep have become quite popular. Typically, they display information about sleep and wake time. Some offer assessment of light sleep versus deep sleep, as well as how often you wake up during the night and how long you stay awake. The manufacturers don't share details about the technology these devices use to gather the information, but it appears that most rely on motion detection.

To evaluate the usefulness of wearable trackers and apps, more than 20 research studies have examined the accuracy and validity of the sleep information they generate. The results show that, when compared to polysomnography—considered by sleep medicine specialists to be the gold standard of sleep tests—the devices are largely inaccurate. Their accuracy particularly deteriorates for people who wake up often during the night.

In addition to being unreliable in distinguishing between different sleep stages, the sleep trackers and apps are inexact in their ability to measure the time it takes to fall asleep, overall sleep efficiency and total sleep time. The general problem is that, although the devices are fair to good at detecting when you're asleep, they are poor at determining when you are awake during the night.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

When it comes to identifying the difference between light sleep and deep sleep, research has shown that fitness trackers are not accurate. Rather than relying on your device to measure how well you sleep, consider basing your assessment of sleep quality on how you feel when you wake up.

A better way to tell if you're getting the sleep you need is to consider how you feel throughout the day. You mention that you usually get six or seven hours of sleep. Based on existing sleep research, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends healthy adults consistently get at least seven hours of sleep a night. If you wake in the morning feeling well-rested and able to function throughout the day, there's probably no need to be concerned.

If, however, you have any of these symptoms, consider seeking medical evaluation: significant difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep; frequent loud snoring; waking up with a gasping or choking sensation; breathing pauses in sleep; frequently waking up; waking in the morning after a full night's sleep not feeling refreshed or with a headache; or often feeling sleepy during the day.

Some changes can improve your sleep. Try to maintain a consistent sleep-wake schedule, and make sleep a priority. But don't spend more than about eight hours in bed per day. Avoid caffeine after noon, and limit it to one or two servings. Exercise during the day, but try to do so at least six hours before you go to bed.

Take time to wind down before bed, and establish a daily bedtime routine. Use the bedroom only for sleep and sex. Avoid excess alcohol use and heavy meals before bedtime. Remove electronics from your bedroom, and avoid looking at the clock. When you go to bed, wear comfortable clothing, and keep your surroundings dark, cool and quiet. If you can't fall asleep, get out of bed and do a boring activity until you become drowsy.

11 Health Benefits of Walking

1 It's an easy habit to create.
Healthy habits are the things that will keep people going after motivation fads. Walking is a simple cornerstone habit that can impact much more than most think.
Stick to a daily walk for 30 days, and watch how your mindset changes. It's awesome!

2 It's good for your brain.
Walking has extensive brain benefits, including improving memory sensors, cognitive control, and even academic performance.

3 It helps with craving control.
Walking instills a sense of mediation, which has been shown to decrease sugar cravings and appetite.

4 It helps with posture.
A big benefit almost every walker notices is improved posture.
By extending the hip flexors from standing the back will straighten, and posture will improve naturally. It will just happen as a result of the walks without feeling "forced."

5 It mostly burns body fat.
Walking in particular as a workout burns primarily fat for fuel, which is pretty great for anyone looking to lose weight on their body.

6 It reduces stress.
Going for a walk, particularly in nature, has been shown to greatly reduce cortisol levels in the body. It's a great way to decompress if feeling lots of life's pressures.

7 It improves immune function.
A mere 30-minute walk improves T-cells and other markers of immune function.
A study done on postmenopausal women even showed that walking reduced the normal reduction of immunity caused by menopause.

8 It helps the elderly prevent falls.
Going on regular walks has been shown to reduce the number of falls in the elderly, so go take grandma for a walk! She'd love it!

9 It's in our blood.
Our ancestors consisted of long lines of hunters and nomads exploring the world around them. It's a part of who we are, whether you realize it or not.

10 It's in our genes.
Walking has also been shown to positively affect the genes that are responsible for fat and carbohydrate metabolism, reduced inflammation, and lowered oxidative stress gene expression.
It is as much genetically a part of us as it is physical.

11 It can help you live longer.
A massive walking study of 7,000 men and 31,000 female recreation walkers showed that those who walked the most often had the lowest mortality rates. So walk more for a long life…

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Life & Style

Rihanna, Dave Chappelle team up to raise money for charity

NEW YORK (AP)—At a Rihanna charity event, she will encourage you to drink heavily—so that you donate generously.

The pop star played the role of slick bartender at her third Diamond Ball on Thursday night in New York City, encouraging the audience to drink up and donate money to her foundation at the same time.

"The more you drink, the more inspired you'll be to donate money ... and help kids around the world," said Rihanna, the founder of the Clara Lionel Foundation, which promotes education and arts globally.

The benefit raised more than $5 million.

Dave Chappelle worked as Rihanna's right-hand man. He first told jokes and later joined the auctioneer onstage, even purchasing a Retna art piece for $180,000.

"I have the perfect wall for this," he said.

When selling two tickets to the Obama Foundation Fall Summit in Chicago, Chappelle said he would throw in his pocket square. It jumped from $200,000 to $201,000.

It eventually sold for $275,000.

Jay-Z, Beyonce, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx and Trevor Noah were some of the A-listers who attended the black-tie event, which included a video message from former President Barack Obama. He thanked Rihanna "for the great work" she's doing with her foundation.

"You've become a powerful force," Obama said, in helping people find "hope" and "dignity."

Rihanna launched the Clara Lionel Foundation in 2012 and named it after her grandparents Clara and Lionel Braithwaite. Many of her family members attended the event and posed for photos on the red carpet with the Grammy-winning singer.

The foundation said at the event they were among the first responders to assist those affected by Hurricane Harvey, and that they're currently strategizing how best to support victims of Hurricane Irma. The organization has a scholarship program and an oncology and nuclear medicine center in Barbados, where Rihanna was born and raised.

"It's exciting to come to New York for the first time. It's the first Diamond Ball on the East Coast, and we've been dying to do something like this for a few years," Rihanna said in an interview at Cipriani Wall Street. "Now is the perfect time. September is Fashion Week. Everybody is here. And we hope that they are in the mood to give back."

Kendrick Lamar's performance went into Friday morning, as he worked the stage excitedly with hits like "Humble," ''Alright" and "Loyalty," which features Rihanna (she danced in the audience). Calvin Harris, who worked with Rihanna on the hits "We Found Love" and "This Is What You Came For," followed with a fun DJ set.

NFL player Victor Cruz, Latin singer Romeo Santos, entertainer La La Anthony and rappers Lil Kim, Cardi B., Future, Fabolous and Young Thug also attended the event.

From the auction held Friday night, Rihanna's organization raised $840,000.

A necklace, featuring 16-carats of white diamonds set in 18-karat white gold, went for $130,000; a visit and tasting for four at the Petrus wine estate, along with lunch at the family's private mansion in France, sold for $80,000; and a trip for 12 in the Maldives went for $100,000.

OKTOBERFEST BEGINS AP

Young men celebrate the opening of the 184th Oktoberfest beer festival in the 'Paulaner brewery' tent in Munich, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017. The world's largest beer festival will be held from Sept. 16 until Oct. 3. About 6 million visitors are expected to come to Munich for the 184th Oktoberfest. The prices for a big mug of beer have gone up again and visitors have to pay 10.95 euros (about $13) per glass — 25 cents more than last year.

Selena Gomez undergoes kidney transplant due to lupus

By PATRICK MAIRS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Selena Gomez recently received a kidney transplant from television actress Francia Raisa due to her struggle with lupus, the actress-singer revealed Thursday.

Gomez disclosed in an Instagram post confirmed by her publicist that she has been somewhat out of the spotlight this summer because she was recovering from the procedure. The 25-year-old calls the transplant "what I needed to do for my overall health."

The post didn't reveal Gomez's current condition or say where or when the procedure took place. Gomez's publicist declined to release more information.

Gomez wrote "there aren't words to describe" how she can thank Raisa, who she says gave "the ultimate gift and sacrifice by donating her kidney."

"I am incredibly blessed," she added.

The Instagram post includes a picture of Gomez and Raisa holding hands while lying side-by-side in hospital beds and another photo of a scar on Gomez's abdomen. The 29-year-old Raisa is best known for her role on the ABC Family series "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." Raisa's former publicist said she forwarded a request for comment to Raisa on Thursday; it was not immediately returned.

Gomez

Gomez revealed her lupus diagnosis in 2015 and took a break from her career last year to deal with anxiety, panic attacks and depression stemming from her battle with the disease.

Lupus is an autoimmune disease, where the body mistakenly attacks its own tissues, sometimes including the kidneys. One healthy kidney is all the body needs, so a single kidney transplant can resolve the problem, said Dr. David Klassen, chief medical officer for the United Network for Organ Sharing, which runs the nation's transplant system.

"Lupus tends to be a disease of younger women, and younger people tend to do better with transplants than older patients, so the expectation is she would do quite well," he said of Gomez.

Lupus also tends not to come back after the operation—"the drugs that prevent kidney rejection are also very good for treating lupus, the underlying disease," Klassen said.

The causes of lupus are unknown. Symptoms can include bloody or foamy urine, unexplained weight gain, high blood pressure or swelling in the legs, ankles or around the eyes.

Only about 3 percent of kidney transplants are for lupus—most are due to diabetes or chronic damage from high blood pressure.

There were about 19,000 kidney transplants in the U.S. last year.

Gomez, whose hits include "Good for You," ''Same Old Love" and "Come & Get It," has been in the spotlight since she was a child. She appeared on "Barney and Friends" before breaking through as a teen star on the Disney Channel's "Wizards of Waverly Place." She has a massive following on social media. Her 126 million followers on Instagram are the most on the platform.

Jay-Z dedicates song to Colin Kaepernick at NYC concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z performed his first headlining concert in three years in his hometown of New York City on Friday, a show that featured his popular hits and a dedication to outspoken NFL player Colin Kaepernick.

The Brooklyn rapper kicked off the first of three days of the Meadows Music and Arts Festival at Citi Field in Queens, performing a 90-minute set that included his well-known songs as well as political moments.

"I want to dedicate this song to Colin Kaepernick tonight," Jay-Z said of "The Story of O.J.," a song about blackness and managing money that also references O.J. Simpson.

"I want to dedicate this to Dick Gregory. I want to dedicate this song to anyone that was held back and you overcame," he added about the song from his personal and revealing album, "4:44."

Kaepernick became a polarizing figure among NFL fans for his decision to sit, and then kneel, during the national anthem last season to protest police brutality. Gregory, who died last month, was a comedian and activist who broke racial barriers in the 1960s and used his humor to spread messages of social justice and nutritional health.

Jay-Z's performance, though full of energy and excitement, had some other serious tones.

When the beat for the Kanye West-produced 2003 song "Lucifer" came on—which samples Max Romeo's "Chase the Devil" and includes the lyrics "Lucifer son of the morning, I'm gonna chase you out of Earth"—Jay-Z told the mostly young audience: "I promise we won't take people out of this country."

Jay-Z also said to the crowd, several times, that "love always trumps hate."

At the show, the 47-year-old icon wore a white T-shirt featuring the artwork of the 1965 Beatles film and album, "Help!" Jay-Z said he wanted to transform the show into rock 'n' roll territory when he played his collaborations with Linkin Park, even paying tribute to the band's lead singer Chester Bennington, who hanged himself in July.

"If you know this song, I want you to sing it so loud he can hear you in heaven," Jay-Z said before performing the Grammy-winning mashup "Numb/Encore," standing still and holding the microphone close with both of his hands.

Church says it had no problem with Lee descendant pastor

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—The governing board of a North Carolina church where a descendant of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was pastor didn't know any members who had a problem with his comments supporting racial justice activists on an MTV broadcast, a church leader said Friday.

Bethany United Church of Christ Governing Council chair Jerry Clodfelter said the first he heard of the Rev. Robert W. Lee IV's comments Aug. 27 at the MTV Video Music Awards was when Lee emailed his resignation more than a week later.

Clodfelter said he refused Lee's resignation at first and asked to talk about any problems with the Winston-Salem church. He said the congregation enjoyed the part-time pastor's preaching and leadership since he came to the church in May.

"No one at Bethany was aware any problem existed, and we were unprepared for the media attention. To the knowledge of the governing council, no one at Bethany had an issue with Pastor Lee's statements on television," Clodfelter said in a statement.

Lee praised the Black Lives Matter movement as he introduced the mother of a woman killed during demonstrations over a Robert E. Lee statue in Virginia.

"We have made my ancestor an idol of white supremacy, racism, and hate," he said at the award show. "As a pastor, it is my moral duty to speak out against racism, America's original sin."

Lee, 24, said a faction of the members of the church 100 miles west of Raleigh did not like his comments. He said he resigned after the congregation decided to put his job to a vote.

Lee stood by his version of events in a statement issued Friday through his publicist, saying he did not want to "engage in a press war with a congregation that did not want me to continue on as their pastor."

"It is clear to me that people like to view the world with rose-tinted glasses. While my world has been turned upside down by this church, I refuse to engage in a he-said-she-said account of what happened. My only wish is that they would do the same," Lee said.

Clodfelter said the only vote took place last Sunday, when the church agreed to accept Lee's resignation.

Jennifer Garner posts laughing gas video after dental work

Jennifer Garner is receiving plenty of praise for a performance not seen on television or the big screen, but on Instagram.

The actress posted a video of herself Thursday laughing and talking with slurred speech after a dental appointment while emotionally praising a song from the musical "Hamilton." In the caption she wrote, "Throwback Thursday-- that time I had dental anesthesia...laughing gas + novocaine + Hamilton = you're welcome. "

The video shows Garner riding in a car and telling someone on the phone how she couldn't stop crying during a song in Hamilton because it was "so beautiful."

Garner's followers on Instagram were quick to applaud the star for sharing the moment. ***(AP)***

Gaga pulls out of Rock in Rio, posts photo of IV in her arm

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga has been hospitalized and forced to pull out of the upcoming Rock in Rio music festival in Brazil, citing "severe physical pain" and posting a photo of what resembles an IV in her arm.

The 31-year-old singer-songwriter wrote on Twitter that she had to take care of her body and asked fans for their "grace and understanding."

Gaga

Her representatives said in a statement Thursday that Lady Gaga was suffering from "severe physical pain" that affected her ability to perform and that she was under the care of "expert medical professionals."

It wasn't clear what she was suffering from or where she was being treated. She posted a photo on Instagram of her arm with a needle in it and a tube running outside the photo's frame.

Rock in Rio, which starts Friday, is to feature Maroon 5, Fergie, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Guns N' Roses.

Earlier this month, Lady Gaga postponed a Montreal concert, citing laryngitis and a respiratory infection. She has previously said she suffers from chronic pain from fibromyalgia.

Fergie and Josh Duhamel separate after 8 years of marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—The eight-year marriage of Fergie and Josh Duhamel is over.

The singer and actor confirmed Thursday that they had decided to split up earlier this year, but kept the news quiet to give their family "the best opportunity to adjust."

Fergie and Duhamel have a son, Axl, who was born in 2013. They said in a statement that they would always be united in their support of each other and their family.

Fergie is a member of the Black Eyed Peas. She released her solo debut, "The Dutchess," in 2006, and is releasing "Double Dutchess" later this month.

Duhamel has appeared on TV shows including ABC's "All My Children" and in films such as "Transformers."

The breakup news was first reported by People magazine.

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2015 file photo, singer Fergie, left, and actor Josh Duhamel arrive at the Tom Ford Autumn/Winter 2015 Womenswear Presentation in Los Angeles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge sets date for Cosby retrial on sexual assault charges

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A judge has scheduled a new date for Bill Cosby's retrial on charges he drugged and molested a woman more than a decade ago. Judge Steven O'Neill on Friday ordered the retrial to begin on April 2. He says jury selection can get underway before then. The retrial was initially set for November, but last month O'Neill granted a request by Cosby's new lawyers to delay it so they could get up to speed on the case. The 80-year-old comedian's first trial in June ended in a hung jury. "The Cosby Show" star is charged with knocking out accuser Andrea Constand with pills and sexually assaulting her at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He has said the sexual encounter with the former Temple University worker was consensual.

Johnny Depp's Kentucky horse farm fails to sell at auction

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Johnny Depp's Kentucky horse farm has failed to sell at auction after bidding was too low. The Lexington Herald-Leader reports the 41-acre (17-hectare) Lexington property was listed for $2.9 million, but the top bid Friday was $1.4 million. After a conference with Depp business manager Edward White, the auctioneers ended the auction without a sale. The Halfhill Auction Group and White said they'll continue talking to interested buyers. Although there were 14 registered bidders, it was clear from the outset the auction was going to be sluggish. An auctioneer's suggestion the bidding start at $2.5 million drew no interest, and bidding began at $1 million. The property includes a 6,000-square-foot house with seven bedrooms, a four-car garage, a guesthouse and three barns. Depp is a Kentucky native born in Owensboro.

Woman finds perfect partner, but still prefers to be alone

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a great guy for a few months. He treats me well and seems to care about me and my family. He offers to help with the bills and cleaning my place. He's also kind and honest, and he's actually the first guy I have ever dated I feel I can fully trust.

I was single for years before we started dating, and during all that time, all I wanted was to be with someone like him. However, being single as long as I have been has made me very independent, which I really like. We have certain days that we don't see each other so I can have my "alone time," but—more and more—I feel like those few days aren't enough.

I'm starting to realize that, for the most part, I really enjoy being alone. I don't get why I feel this way. He's everything I have always wanted in a partner, so why do I still always want to be by myself? Do other people have the same kind of feelings I do? Or is this not normal behavior?

WANT TO BE ALONE

DEAR WANT: I think most people need a degree of alone time to concentrate on their interests or to be creative. That's normal. However, you state that you don't feel you have enough of it, and even though you are seeing someone you think is "Mr. Wonderful," you still always want more. Your next step should be to talk with Mr. Wonderful about the fact that you need more time alone. It may be something the two of you can work out. However, if it isn't, you will have to face the fact that you may not be ready to couple up.

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been divorced for years, so I go to my mum's for a week and to my dad and stepmum's the next. Recently I have been going to my dad's less often because he is giving me major anxiety. He keeps asking questions I don't want to answer because they either might be about my mum or are just not "appropriate."

Dad and his wife are "sticky beaks." They don't mind their own business. I just started high school, so I'm very stressed and have been crying a lot. Can you help me to get my life together?

MAJORLY ANXIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR ANXIOUS: A new school can be intimidating for first-year students until they become used to the routine and more at ease with classmates. However, with time, you will settle in and it will no longer be stressful for you. In fact, it may offer opportunities to explore interests you were never exposed to in the lower grades.

As to your father and his wife, you do not have to report to them what your mother is doing or whom she is seeing (if anyone), or answer any questions that embarrass you. When they ask, ask them to please stop because the questions make you uncomfortable. If they persist, tell your mum and let her deal with them. She may be able to explain that what they're doing is driving you away, and if they don't stop, they will be seeing less and less of you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

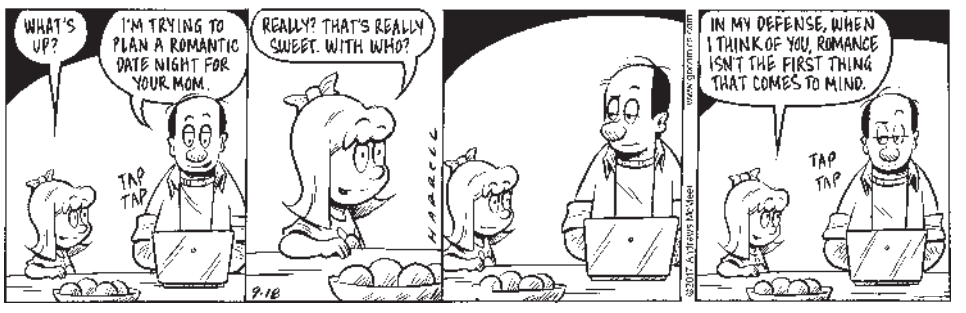
I'M NOT GOING TO BE LED BY YOU! I'M THE RIGHTFUL CAPTAIN! YOU JUST STOLE MY CAPTAIN HELMET!
LETS SAY YOU GAVE IT TO ME UNDER EXTREME DURESS.
OOH, IF YOU WERE LITTLER THAN ME, BOY, I'D POUND YOU!
HA! YOUR MOM TOLD ME YOU HAVE A WEIRD DISEASE AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET SMALLER AS YOU GROW OLDER!
SHE DID NOT! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IN FACT, SHE'S ALREADY GOT A CONTRACT FROM THE CIRCUS SIDE SHOW. I SAW IT MYSELF.
I'M NOT LISTENING! I'M NOT LISTENING! OHH, SAY ON YOU SEEEE..

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

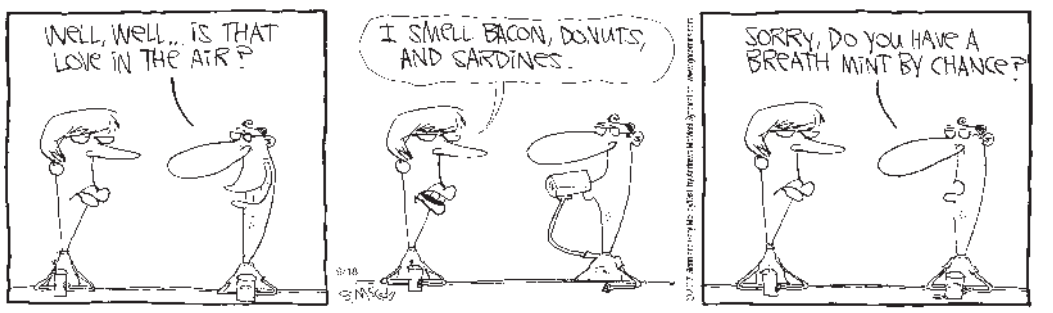
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S UP?
I'M TRYING TO PLAN A ROMANTIC DATE NIGHT FOR YOUR MOM.
TAP TAP
REALLY? THAT'S REALLY SWEET. WITH WHO?
IN MY DEFENSE, WHEN I THINK OF YOU, ROMANCE ISN'T THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND.
TAP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Venus de Milo's lack
5 MLB stat
8 Facts and figures
12 Bucharest resident
14 Sci-fi fleet
15 Dusk
16 Item on stage
17 Actress Hagen
18 Kindle downloads
20 Condition
23 Port of Algeria
24 Glazier's sheet
25 Tornado
28 High card
29 Kayak's cousin
30 Chai, e.g.
32 Performer with a baton
34 Writer Didion
35 Must have
36 Halloween bagful
37 Hired guns
40 Rug cleaner, briefly
41 Taj Mahal city
42 Sparkles
47 Horn sound
48 Korea setting
49 Eyelid woe
50 "CSI" evidence
51 Breathing organ

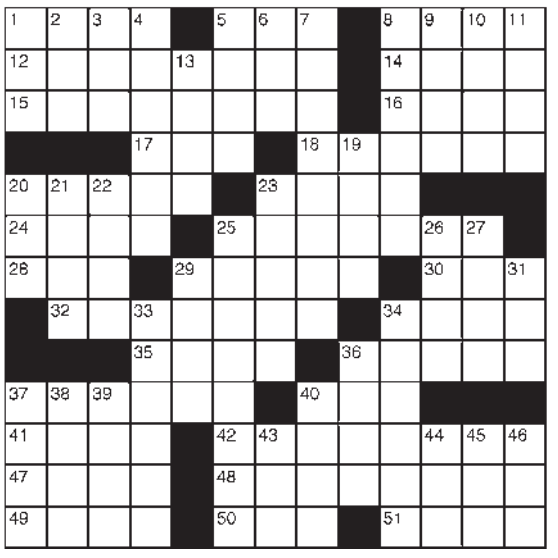
DOWN

1 Gallery display
2 Squabble
3 2001, to Cato
4 Private gesture?
5 Latvia's capital
6 "Humbug!"
7 Kind of decorator
8 Washington's — Circle
9 Roundish 'do
10 Grabbed
11 Vipers
13 Evening, in an ad
19 Pedestal
20 Hot tub
21 Diplomacy
22 From the start
23 Had title to
25 Gifted
26 Harrow rival
27 Peruse
29 Manitoba tribe
31 Whatever
33 Prisoner
34 Wolf's kin
36 Quitter's word
37 Millinery
38 Gershwin's "— Rhythm"
39 Helen's home
40 Travel permit
43 Pallid
44 Baton Rouge sch.
45 Aachen article
46 Droop

Solution time: 26 mins.

R	A	G		T	I	N	A		O	R	A	N
O	A	R		E	M	U	S		N	I	T	E
C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K		S	P	A	S
		M	O	P	S			I	F	A	D	S
T	H	A	N	E		R	E	N	E			
A	U	L	D		C	O	R	N	C	H	I	P
L	S	D		I	O	T	A	S		A	R	E
C	H	I	P	S	H	O	T		M	R	I	S
			A	M	O	R		M	I	D	S	T
V	F	F	P	S			R	F	S	S		
E	N	Y	A		B	L	U	E	C	H	I	P
G	O	R	Y		R	A	N	T		I	D	O
A	S	E	A		A	N	T	S		P	A	W

Last Friday's Answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Sudeikis, 42; James Marsden, 44; Jada Pinkett Smith, 46; Aisha Tyler, 47.

Happy Birthday: Look for new possibilities. Expand your awareness and find out how far you can push your skills, attributes and the gifts you were born with. Showing discipline and understanding your depth and potential will help you surpass your expectations. Let your dreams and imagination fuel your success. Walk away from the past and into the future with hope. Your numbers are 8, 19, 22, 24, 30, 39, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Your goal should be finishing what you start. Maintaining a low-key persona will allow you to get more done with less interference. Don't feel like you have to go for sensationalism to be noticed. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take part in the events going on in your community or through your place of employment. Networking and gatherings geared toward making life better for the average person will lead to new friendships and a better standard of living. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Your actions will express how you feel and what you have to offer. Being truthful and open about what you want in return will not please everyone, but is the best route to take. Don't waste energy on anger. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Now is the time to bring about positive changes at home. Whether it's moving furniture around, getting rid of things you no longer use or changing your routine or eating habits, the end result will improve your life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider whether you are being offered a good opportunity or not. You may be geting in over your head if you aren't careful about how you handle your money. Live within your means and don't buy into something risky. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Consider your choices and what makes the most sense. Your aim should be to get ahead, not to waste your time on something that isn't changeable. Be optimistic and take pride in the accomplishments you know you can achieve. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen to reason. Impulsive actions will not bring the results you are hoping for. Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will set you up for a fall if you are too gullible. Trust in what you know and see. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take a different route. Whether your journey is physical or emotional, trying something new will spark your imagination and help you find answers that will encourage personal growth and development. Explore and experience whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think before you say something that may offend or hurt someone. Being a joker is fine, but not at the expense of someone innocent and shy. The outcome will affect your reputation. Pay it forward and aim to help, not hinder, others. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Open up about your concerns. You don't have to offer personal information, but you can cite consequences as a result of not taking care of pending issues on time. Listen closely and counter any response that sounds iffy. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Check in with people you have worked with in the past and you'll find out about an opportunity that interests you. Spending quality time with someone you love will be rejuvenating. Express your feelings and your intentions. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look for alternative ways to deal with partnership problems. Keeping the peace and offering fair solutions will help offset an unnecessary argument. Work in conjunction with people and you'll get things done. Help those less fortunate than you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, accommodating and tenacious. You are imaginative and practical.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			4			8	
7			1		2	6		3
	3	6	5			9		
	4					8	7	
3				6				9
	2	5					6	
		7			1	2	3	
2		8	4		6			5
	1			7			9	

Difficulty Level ★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	2	7	8	5	6	3	4
5	3	4	2	6	9	8	1	7
7	8	6	1	3	4	5	2	9
2	6	8	4	7	1	9	5	3
9	4	7	8	5	3	1	6	2
3	1	5	9	2	6	7	4	8
4	7	3	5	1	8	2	9	6
6	2	1	3	9	7	4	8	5
8	5	9	6	4	2	3	7	1

Difficulty level ★★★★ 9/18

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DELICIOUS CHERRIES JUBILEE Solution: 9 letters

S	R	W	H	I	P	C	S	N	E	K	C	I	H	T
E	O	A	S	K	I	L	L	E	T	I	U	R	F	R
I	U	R	G	S	C	O	O	P	N	Ⓟ	M	A	J	E
K	Q	M	S	U	S	M	O	O	T	H	Ⓘ	E	W	S
O	I	A	I	T	S	E	O	D	C	R	T	Ⓔ	A	S
O	L	E	M	L	I	P	A	J	O	R	A	N	G	E
C	I	R	M	O	S	R	E	T	S	E	Z	D	A	D
A	A	C	E	T	K	L	C	A	E	D	E	T	R	E
L	T	E	R	I	L	I	U	E	E	E	P	S	N	C
L	K	C	C	O	V	C	Y	T	B	T	I	W	I	O
I	C	I	H	N	E	D	I	M	H	O	R	I	S	R
N	O	N	E	E	N	N	A	G	M	E	W	R	H	A
A	C	E	R	A	G	L	I	O	B	E	A	L	A	T
V	U	T	R	I	F	L	E	L	D	A	L	T	R	E
Q	D	B	Y	R	T	S	A	P	P	I	T	T	E	D

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Boil, Bowl, Brandy, Cherry, Classic, Cocktail, Cookies, Cool, Dark, Decorate, Dessert, Flambéed, Fruit, Garnish, Heat, Ice Cream, Ignite, Jam, Jell-O, Ladle, Light, Liquor, Lotion, Melt, Orange, Pastry, Pie, Pitted, Queen Victoria, Red, Ripe, Sauce, Scoop, Share, Simmer, Skillet, Smoothie, Spoon, Stir, Sugar, Swirl, Teas, Thicken, Trifle, Vanilla, Warm, Whip, Zest

Last Friday's Answer: Ingredients

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB17-CHCC/HA-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 02, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION FOR BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DOL/OSHA-212

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARMENT OF LABOR, CNMI-OSHA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN,** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-303.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GIL SAN NICOLAS
ACTING SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-14
SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"COLOR LASER MULTIFUNCTIONAL MACHINE (Copy, print, scan, fax, email)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17- CHCC/FACILITY-24

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-28

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"SOLAR PV SYSTEMS PROJECT, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING
THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 AT 9:00A.M CHST. AT THE MAIN FACILITY OFFICE. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED–UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(01) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Purpose:
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

Duties:
- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepare income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Managing Processes, Financial Software, Developing Standards, Audit, Accounting, Corporate Finance, Tracking Budget Expenses, Financial Skills, Analyzing Information , Developing Budgets, Performance Management.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
- Knowledge of Excel.

Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(01) Bookkeeper

Duties:
- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivables.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of two (2) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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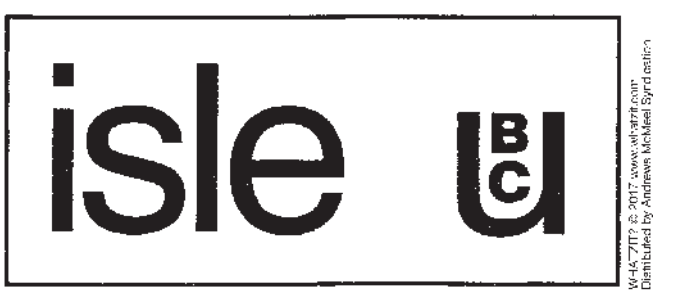
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Indians clinch second straight AL Central title

CLEVELAND (AP) — Francisco Lindor planned to pour a bottle of water over his head. On Sunday, he'll switch to champagne.

For the second year in a row, the Cleveland Indians are AL Central champions.

A few hours after they beat Kansas City 8-4 in the first game since the Royals stopped their AL record winning streak at 22, the Indians clinched the division title when second-place Minnesota lost to Toronto.

When their second crown became official, the Indians were long gone from Progressive Field, leaving the ballpark to spend time with family or toast a memorable week. In Lindor's case, he was set to eat pizza and watch the boxing match between Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez.

Lindor said if the Twins lost he would dump water on himself before focusing on the fight.

The bout figured to be close. The Indians knocked out the Twins, Royals, Tigers and White Sox.

The All-Star's double in the sixth off Jason Hammel (8-12) gave him an extra-base hit in 10 straight games—aclub record and four shy of the major league mark of 14, shared by Chipper Jones (2006) and Paul Waner (1927).

"I didn't even know that," Lindor said. "I saw it on the scoreboard."

Carlos Carrasco (16-6) pitched into the seventh and Edwin Encarnacion hit his 35th homer as the Indians improved to 32-5 in their last 37 games.

Alex Gordon connected for the Royals, whose wild-card hopes took another blow and couldn't stay close to the Indians.

Cleveland Indians' Yandy Diaz is safe at third base as Kansas City Royals' Mike Moustakas covers during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017.

Blue Jays 7, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Marco Estrada pitched eight efficient innings, Josh Donaldson homered twice among his four hits and Toronto topped Minnesota Twins.

The Twins' loss clinched the AL Central for Cleveland. Minnesota is one game ahead of the Angels for the second wild-card spot.

Estrada (9-8) gave up two runs.

Donaldson gave the Blue Jays a lead in the first by sending a first-pitch shot off Adalberto Mejia (4-6) into the second deck in left-center.

Angels 2, Rangers 0

In Anaheim, Justin Upton hit two home runs, Parker Bridwell outpitched Cole Hamels and the Los Angeles Angels moved up in the AL wild-card race by beating Texas.

The Angels closed within one game of Minnesota for the second wild-card spot.

Upton connected in the first inning and again in the eighth. He has 31 home runs and a career-high 103 RBI this year with Detroit and the Angels—it's his second straight season with at least 30 homers.

The 30-year-old Upton had just one homer in his first 13 games for the Angels before twice tagging Hamels (10-4).

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Zack Greinke pitched eight innings of two-hit ball and Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer as Arizona defeated San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks reduced their magic number for clinching a playoff berth to six as they won for the 20th time in 25 games and for the ninth straight time on the road.

The Giants have dropped four straight.

Greinke (17-6) struck out eight and gave up one walk as he moved into a three-way tie for the major league lead in victories with Clayton Kershaw and Zach Davies.

Greinke also hit two doubles.

Rockies 16, Padres 0

In Denver, Tyler Anderson pitched six innings in his first start since returning from knee surgery, Charlie Blackmon set an NL season record for RBI by a leadoff man and Colorado won a testy game against San Diego.

Blackmon homered and doubled to drive in four runs, pushing his season RBI total from the leadoff position to 92 and surpassing Craig Biggio, who had 88 in 1998.

Pat Valaika had a pinch-hit grand slam during a six-run seventh and Carlos Gonzalez also homered for the Rockies, who stretched their lead for the second NL wild-card card berth to 3 1/2 games over Milwaukee.

Dodgers 3, Natioanals 2

In Washington, Cody Bellinger hit his 38th homer to match the National League single-season record for rookies, and the Dodgers moved closer to the NL West title.

Chase Utley had two doubles and scored twice to help Los Angeles reduce its magic number to win the division to five. Rich Hill (10-8) and five relievers combined on a four-hitter.

Los Angeles also moved seven games ahead of Washington in the race to secure home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs. The Dodgers have won four straight since dropping 11 in a row.

Yankees 9, Orioles 3

In New York, Didi Gregorius and Greg Bird homered for the second straight game, rookie Jordan Montgomery pitched six shutout innings and the Yankees won their fourth straight game.

The Yankees (82-66) extended their stretch of winning seasons to 25, the second-longest such streak in major league history behind their own 39 straight from 1926-64. They also stayed three games behind AL East-leading Boston.

Todd Frazier added a two-run homer shot as the Yankees won for the seventh time in eight games. Montgomery (8-7) allowed four hits and walked one.

Astros 8, Mariners 6

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel threw six solid innings, Carlos Beltran had three hits and two RBI and the Astros lowered their magic number for clinching the AL West title to one.

The Astros (90-58), who reached 90 wins for the first time since 2004, can secure the franchise's seventh division title with one more win or a loss by the Los Angeles Angels.

Keuchel (13-4) allowed one run—Jean Segura's 11th homer in the sixth—and four hits. Joe Musgrove worked two innings for his first save.

Cubs 4, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, Kyle Hendricks pitched six-hit ball into the eighth inning, Addison Russell homered and the Cubs earned their fifth straight victory.

Albert Almora Jr. had three hits and two RBI for Chicago, which increased its NL Central lead to 3 1/2 games over Milwaukee and five better than St. Louis. The Brewers were playing Miami on Saturday night.

Russell was activated before the game after being sidelined by a foot injury. He pinch-hit in the eighth and connected for a solo shot against Tyler Lyons.

Marlins 7, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Derek Dietrich hit a two-run homer, Adam Conley pitched into the sixth inning and Miami beat Milwaukee to stop a six-game slide.

Conley (7-7) allowed three runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings in the second game of a series relocated from Miami to Milwaukee because of the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Milwaukee dropped four games back of NL Central-leading Chicago, which beat St. Louis 4-1 earlier in the day. The Brewers had won three straight and six of seven.

Zach Davies (17-9) took the loss.

Red Sox 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Rick Porcello took a shutout into the eighth inning, Mookie Betts hit his 22nd home run and the Red Sox won for the eighth time in 10 games.

The win reduced Boston's magic number for clinching a playoff spot to six and kept its AL East lead over the New York Yankees at three games.

Porcello (10-17) gave up one unearned run in 7 1/3 innings. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 33rd save.

Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb allowed three runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Mets 7, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Jacob deGrom set a career high in wins, Dominic Smith and Gavin Cecchini each drove in two runs and the Mets snapped a five-game skid with a victory over Atlanta.

DeGrom (15-9) allowed five hits, one run and two walks in seven innings. He struck out seven while topping his personal mark of 14 victories in 2015.

The Mets had lost eight straight on the road.

Freddie Freeman hit his 27th homer for Atlanta. R.A. Dickey (9-10). The 42-year-old knuckleballer is 0-2 with a 10.05 ERA in his last three starts.

White Sox 10, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Matt Davidson and Nicky Delmonico homered, Tim Anderson had four hits and the White Sox captured their season series with the Tigers for the first time since 2008.

The White Sox have won 10 of 18 against Detroit this year. The teams have one meeting remaining Sunday.

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera left at the start of the fifth with back tightness. Myles Jaye (1-2) lasted just 1 2/3 innings.

Chicago has won six of eight, outscoring its opponents 69-26. Reynaldo Lopez (2-3) allowed four runs in seven innings.

Reds 2, Pirates 1

In Cincinnati, Sal Romano pitched a career-high eight shutout innings and Jesse Winker homered, leading Cincinnati to the victory.

Romano (5-6) allowed five hits, struck out six and walked none while improving to 3-1 over his last six starts.

Pittsburgh avoided a shutout when Andrew McCutchen hit his 26th homer in the ninth. But Cody Reed came in with a runner on first and retired Gregory Polanco on a grounder to second for his first career save.

Phillies 5, Athletics 2

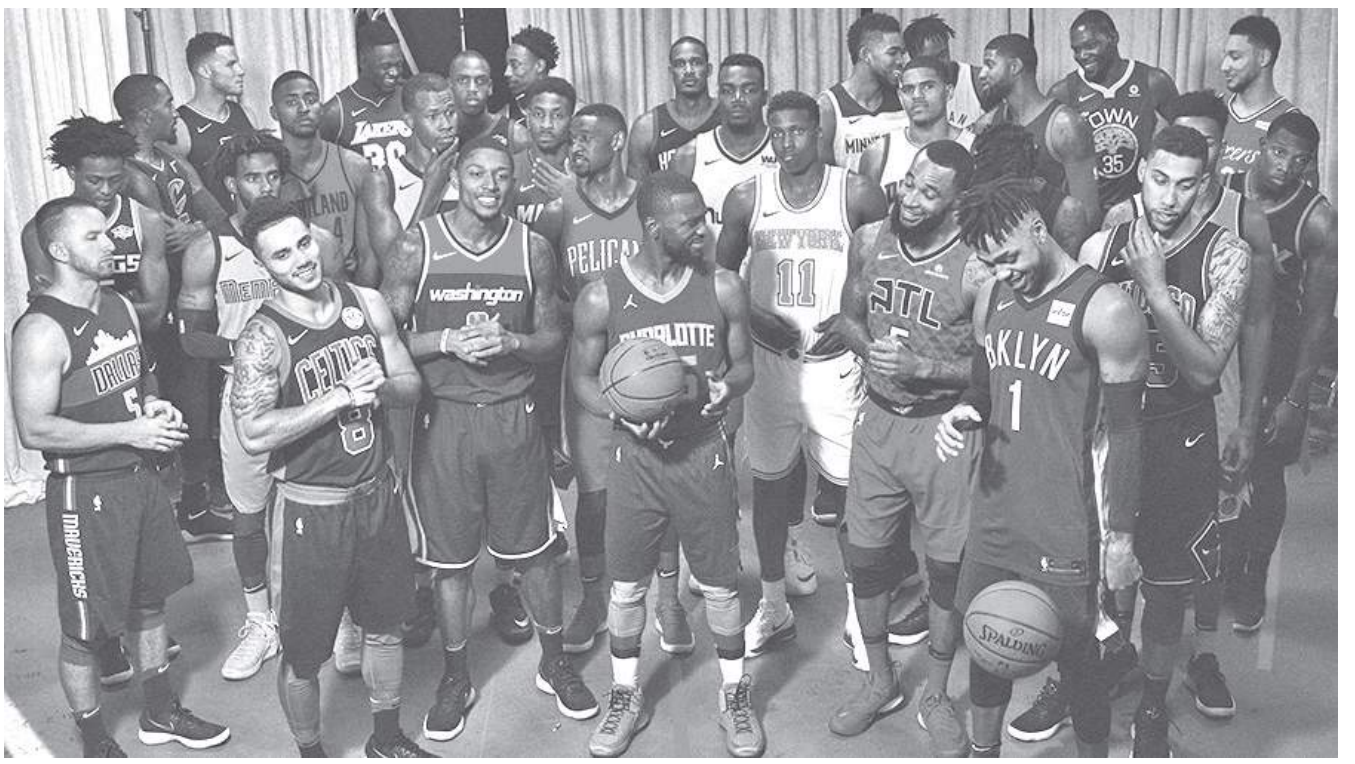
In Philadelphia, Jorge Alfaro homered and Philadelphia's relievers pitched six strong innings after a rain delay in a win over Oakland.

J.P. Crawford had two RBI and Cesar Hernandez also drove in a run for the Phillies, who improved to 5-14 against the AL.

Matt Olson and Jed Lowrie homered for Oakland, which lost for just the third time in its last 10.

The game was delayed 1 hour, 46 minutes by rain during the third inning.

New jersey aims to put NBA fans front and center



Players gather backstage waiting for the smart jerseys unveiling by Nike as part of its new partnership with the NBA, Friday, September 15, 2017, in California.

LOS ANGELES—Sporting a favorite player's number can now be more than a declaration of faith, thanks to smart jerseys unveiled this weekend by Nike as part of its new partnership with the NBA.

A tap of a smartphone to a label on the jersey allows the wearer a real-time look at Kevin Durant's statistics, Blake Griffin's post-match press conference, or even the music playlist a NBA star uses to get motivated before a game.

The high-tech kit was unveiled on Friday night in a show featuring rapper Travis Scott, Golden State Warriors superstar Durant and Los Angeles Clippers standout Griffin.

Frank Ntilikina, the French sensation who is poised to launch his first NBA campaign with the New York Knicks, was also on hand to tout the technology that will be available worldwide on September 29.

Stefan Olander, Nike vice president in charge of digital innovation, says the jerseys, embedded with a NFC (near field communication) chip will bring customers closer to the game than ever.

"We have access to content that cannot be found elsewhere, and we bring this unique added value to our customers with this jersey," Olander said.

US sports apparel giant Nike becomes the official supplier to the NBA and its 30 teams in the 2017-18 season, which starts on October 20, replacing Adidas.

Signed in June 2015, the mega-contract covers eight years and while the terms have not been officially announced industry experts put its value in the region of $1 billion.

The deal puts the Nike swoosh on the jersey of the reigning champion Golden State Warriors, the Cleveland Cavaliers of LeBron James, and such iconic teams as the Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks.

Nike also has access to exclusive content produced by the NBA and its partners, including videos, match sequences and locker room video—which fans will now be able to access through their "connected jerseys".

"We use NFC technology, the same that allows remote payment in store with Apple Pay or that serves for metro cards.

"Each shirt has its chip that allows the experience of each buyer to be fully customized" said Michael Hailey of Nike Innovation.

Information won't just flow one way through the smart jerseys and their associated apps. Nike will know who bought specific players' jerseys and where they are when they scan in.

Players can use them to send social media-style messages specifically to those fans who bought their jerseys.

The connected jersey will be available in two editions, one priced at $110 and one at $200—part of Nike's package of four jerseys for each team.

And there's no reason to think the technology will be limited to basketball.

"There is no reason to think that we can't extend this experience to other sports, because in the end, what we do is bring more value to the experience of our customers," Olander said.

Day takes a baby step with a big round at BMW Championship

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Jason Day made his first hole-in-one in nine years, shot a 6-under 65 and goes into the weekend at the BMW Championship with a chance to end 16 months without a victory.

It was a big day for more than just the 29-year-old Australian on Friday.

By becoming the first player to make an ace at Conway Farms this week, BMW contributed $100,000 to the Evans Scholars Foundation that will pay for a four-year tuition. Day also won a car and, not long after signing his card, he decided to donate that to the foundation to pay for another full scholarship.

Day said it didn't matter that he has a sponsorship deal with Lexus and really didn't need another car.

"I'm in a fortunate position, being able to not only impact one person but be able to impact another person's life," Day said.

It was a feel-good moment in charity, and on the scorecard.

Day began the year at No. 1 in the world with a goal of staying there all the way through December. Instead, he gave up the top ranking to Dustin Johnson within two months and has slipped all the way to No. 9.

He showed up at Conway Farms at No. 28 in the FedEx Cup with no guarantee of even reaching the Tour Championship. His back was bothering him. And in a jarring move, he decided to use an old school friend, Luke Reardon, as his caddie to replace the only caddie he ever had as pro -- Colin Swatton, who doubles as his coach.

For two days, he has looked like the Day of old.

He goes into the weekend in the final group with fellow Australian Marc Leishman, who had a three-shot lead.

"Seeing the last two days, I know I still have it in myself to be able to hit the correct shots and go out there and try and win," Day said.

It helps being on a course where two years ago, Day opened with a 61 and went wire-to-wire for a six-shot victory that took him to No. 1 in the world for the first time. He already has three eagles this week, two of them on Friday. He chipped in from the back of the green on the par-5 14th, and then made his hole-in-one on No. 17 from 186 yards to a right pin with a 7-iron.

Day didn't see the entirety of the shot , turning his head away from dust that flew into his eyes. The ball landed in rough just short of the green, hopped out and rolled into the cup.

"I was actually going to play a little bit left," he said. "Pushed it a little bit but I was trying to hit a high shot, 7-iron about 182 yards and land it there. Probably landed at maybe 181 yards. Landed just off the green and kind of rolled down. One of those ones you kind of get away with it."

Golovkin and Alvarez fight to a brutal draw; rematch to come

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin argued afterward about who won their middleweight showdown.

No one could argue it wasn't a great fight.

Golovkin retained his middleweight titles Saturday night, fighting to a 12-round draw with Alvarez in a brutal battle that ended with both fighters holding their hands aloft in victory. It was a fight neither deserved to lose and, when the scores were tallied, neither did.

The middleweight bout years in the making lived up to its hype as the two fighters traded huge punches and went after each other for 12 rounds. Neither was down or seriously hurt, but both landed big punches to the head that had the crowd screaming in excitement.

Alvarez rallied late to win the last three rounds on each scorecard and pull out the draw, though both fighters claimed victory.

"I won 7-8 rounds easily," Alvarez said. "I was superior inside the ring."

"Today people give me draw. I focus on boxing," Golovkin said. "Look my belts, I'm still champion. I've not lost."

Golovkin was the aggressor throughout and landed punches that had put other fighters to the canvas. But he couldn't knock Alvarez down, and the Mexican boxer more than stood his own in exchanges with Triple G. The two were still brawling as the final seconds ticked down.

Alvarez was leading after the first three rounds, then Golovkin dominated the middle rounds. After a pep talk from his corner, Alvarez came out more aggressive in the 10th round to pull out the draw.

Two scorecards were close, with Golovkin ahead, 115-113, on one and a 114-114 draw on the other. But veteran judge Adalaide Byrd inexplicably had Alvarez winning, 118-110, giving him all but two rounds. The Associated Press scored it, 114-114.

Golovkin, who has never lost in 38 fights, retained his middleweight titles. But Alvarez showed that he could not only take the punches of the fighter from Kazakhstan but land telling punches of his own.

A frenzied crowd of 22,358 at the T-Mobile Arena roared throughout the fight as the two middleweights put on the kind of show that boxing purists had anticipated. They brawled, used sharp jabs and counter punched at times, with neither one willing to give the other much ground.

"Congratulations all my friends from Mexico," Golovkin said. "I want a true fight. I want a big drama show."

There was plenty of drama toward the end of the fight as Alvarez rallied in the late rounds and rocked Golovkin with uppercuts and big right hands. But just as soon as he landed, he often took one back from the slugger so feared that most other fighters avoided him.

There was even more drama on the scorecards, as Byrd's score was off the other two by a wide margin.

"That's the life of a judge," said Bob Bennett, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "She had a bad night in a big fight."

It was a battle from the opening bell, as Golovkin tried to walk Alvarez down only to get hit by sharp counter punches.

Both fighters raised their hands in triumph at the final bell and jumped into the arms of corner men. Then they waited as the scorecards were added up to see who would leave the ring with the belts.

"It's not my fault," Golovkin said. "I put pressure on every round."

Golovkin predicted before the fight that the late rounds would resemble a street fight, and in a way they did. Both fighters were willing to trade, and both had no problems landing hard shots to the head.

Ringside punching stats credited Golovkin landing 217 of 703 punches while Alvarez landed 169 of 505.

Golovkin had chased Alvarez for nearly two years, trying to get the signature fight that would pay him millions and make him a pay-per-view draw on his own. Alvarez, the redhead known as Canelo, finally agreed to the match after Golovkin looked vulnerable earlier this year against Daniel Jacobs in a decision win that stopped his knockout streak at 23 fights.

But Alvarez said Golovkin didn't have anything he wasn't expecting, and that his power wasn't what it was made out to be.

Golovkin, who moved to Los Angeles from Kazakhstan to pursue stardom in the ring, said he would welcome a second fight

"Of course I want a rematch," he said. "I want a fight. A true fight. I have my belts. I want a championship fight."

Alvarez said he was more than willing to do it again.

"Obviously yes, if the people want it," Alvarez said. "He didn't win, it was a draw. I always said I was going to be a step ahead of him."

After the decision was announced, both fighters hugged and Triple G whispered something in Alvarez's ear. They then exchanged thumbs-up signs and a handshake, knowing they had done their jobs well.

Titans gain slot in Tuesday billiards finals

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 9 Eleven Titans dispatched the higher-seeded Tasha's Str8 Black Ball to crash the highly-anticipated battle between the division's Top 2 teams in last week's knockout playoffs round of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The Titans matched the Str8 Black Ball rack after rack in squeezing out a 9-8 triumph in their semifinals match, while the Destroyers showed nerves of steel in scoring the same decision against the hard fighting 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 9 Eleven Titans celebrate their upset win over the higher-seeded Tasha's Str8 Black Ball in last week's playoff matches in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The Black Ball entered the playoffs as the second-best team after finishing the elimination round with a 153-107 record, but they could not escape the upset axe last week. 9 Eleven Titans' Ray Matsunaga, Pat Cepeda, Joe Villagomez, Simon Kapileo, and Shane Quitugua played like there's no tomorrow in beating every Black Ball cue artist matched against them both in the Singles and Partner's 8-Ball. Cepeda and Quitugua, with the score tied at 8-8, bested the Black Ball's duo of Mervin Sahagun and Rey Hermogenes to book a finals berth.

It was the same story in the Destroyers-Hustlers game with the semis match decided in the final Partner's 8-Ball event.

Gian Flores and Nolan Cultura showed that they were the steadier pair when they defeated Erwin Gomez and Cobra Mariano and put the Destroyers to a finals showdown against the Titans.

In the Thursday League, the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors earned the top ranking despite suffering a 7-6 loss against the Titans II. They finished with a 169-104 record and will face Tasha's Wild Bills (147-126) on Thursday with a finals seat at stake.

The Chow Time 8-Black Ball came in second place (167-106) in the standings after dropping a 5-8 decision against the 9 Eleven Jam Shooters and will take on the Titans II (155-118) also on Sept. 21.

The Wild Bills squeaked past Tasha's Extreme, 7-6, while Sands Team SCS dumped the Chow Time Blue Haus Homeboyz, 10-3, in the other matches of the last day of the elimination round.

Regular season division titlists march on

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Regular season division champions the Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty and Jonny's Serial Killaz resumed their Bud Light Cup title hunt after beating their respective foes last week in the Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

The Ridin'Darrty encountered rough moments before disposing of the 6JMS 101 Proofers, 9-7, in the elimination round of the season-ending knockout tournament. They will next face the sister squad of their previous opponent, the Mafia, in tonight's semifinals.

The Mafia earned a semis berth after a 9-6 thumping of sister team Dragon Masters in their race-to-9 contest, while the Franken Gunners outsmarted fellow Franken Brau-sponsored squad Drunken Warriors, 9-8.

The Gunners will take on the 6JMS 101 Predators, who had a bye, in the Final Four with the winner advancing to the finals on Sept. 25, either against the Ridin'Darrty or the Mafia.

In the Flame Tree division, regular season winners Serial Killaz went away with an 8-5 decision over the Chow Time Drillers in one of four race-to-8 matches. They will collide with the Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty, an 8-6 conqueror of Jonny's S.O.L., in the semis.

The other half of the Final Four pairing will be an all-Naked Fish team affair with the Na'Gupu colliding with the Dartaholiks on Sept. 21. The Na'Gupu defeated Jonny's Real Deal, 8-5, while the Dartaholiks thrashed Jump It, 8-1, to arrange their semis showdown.

The semis winners will face off on Sept. 28 with the Bud Light Cup at stake. Other regular season results are as follows:

Masters
Mafia 11, Calamity Fun 6
Nakayoshi 11, Pythons 6

Ladies
Bull-It 8, Hot Mess 7
Exquisites 8, Momshies 7

Tuesday B
Xecutionerz 12, Chamberos 3
D'Strikers 10, Lupeyt Boyz 5
Warriors 8, L.O.L. 7

Fanihi B
Mafia 9, Strikers 6
Shaka 8, Bandit 7

Chichirika C
Bulls Hitters 14, Bull It 1
Hutshot 11, Scorpions 4
Knights 11, Flukers 4
Proofers 9, Dart Crafters 6

Kingfisher C
Hit'em Up 13, Dart Vaders 2
Parakeyu! 9, Sunsports 6
Ridin'Darrty 8, Re-Darts 7

BBB

From Page 28

leaned heavily on Jun Estolas, who exploded for 30 points, but had only Erwin Gomez and Gino Libuw backing him up. Gomez tallied 19 points, while Libuw recorded 14, but had none in the fourth quarter when Vendette tried to mount a comeback, bringing the deficit to single digit before falling short in the end.

Vendetta played catch up all throughout the match as BBB got its offense going early, taking a 25-19 lead after the first canto. Gamboa and Spott teamed up in helping BBB control the tempo of the match, as they combined for 14 points, while Che added 5.

Ariar, who was scoreless in the first canto, then anchored BBB's breakaway in the second period, knocking in 8 of his total points in that frame. Four of his teammates also converted at least 2 baskets each to hand BBB a promising 53-37 advantage.

BBB then kept the double-digit spread in the third, 73-60, as Gamboa and Spott showed up anew, combining for 11 more points. Gamboa was still unstoppable in the fourth, as his baskets kept BBB in a safe distance. The BBB wingman finished the fourth with 9 points, registering 5 of the squad's last 9 and trading baskets with Estolas.

Meanwhile, games in the IT&E/Blue Haus caging will be played every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. There will be two matches on Wednesdays and Saturdays, while three games are scheduled on Sundays.

BBB 93 — Gamboa 25, Spott 16, Ariar 13, Lansang 11, Che 8, Devero 8, Esdrelon 7, Flores 2, Achas 2.

Vendetta 84 — Estolas 30, Gomez 19, Libuw 14, Dela Cruz 6, Sablan 6, Tenorio 3, Bucalig 2, Orbeta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-19, 53-37, 73-60, 93-84.

TEEN

From Page 28

Also scoring multiple scorings for the winning squad were midfielder Hamsa Lestaluhu (70th, 72nd, and 88th minute) and Rendy Juliansyah (14th and 21st), while forwards Amanar Abdillah and Andre Oktaviansyah contributed one apiece.

Ernando Sutaryadi played as goalie for Indonesia and gave the CNMI little chance of making it to the board. Jason Quimzon was the Teen Ayuyus' goalie and was joined on the starting 11 by siblings Taka and Ichiro Bora, Kirt Andon, Joshua Mendez, Mark Esalan, John Michael Rojas, Sebastien Manabat, Terrance Montenegro, Eun Syu Hahn, and Joseph Rasa. Ian Karl Maniago, Reginald Pascual, and John Guiller Canape were the substitutes.

After the big loss, the Teen Ayuyus are moving on as they shift their focus to their game against host Thailand today.

"We knew going into this game (versus Indonesia) and the rest of the matches are going to be tough, physically and mentally. The boys did their best on the field and played tough. They showed intensity throughout the match and never gave up. As for now, we want to make sure that the boys focus on their next game against home team Thailand. It will be a tougher competition as Thailand will have the home advantage and the crowd. This is a great learning experience for the boys and they know what to expect in this competition. Coach Mita (Michiteru Mita) is encouraging the boys not to mind the scores of every match, but just focus on playing their best for the team," team manager Rodwealth Espana said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

Meanwhile, in the Group G opening game, Timor-Leste edged Laos, 5-2. Timor-Lester will go for win No. 2 when it takes on Indonesia in today's first match at 4pm (7pm Saipan time). The CNMI-Indonesia tiff, on the other hand, is set for 7pm, Bangkok time.

CHAMPS

From Page 28

The Guam fighter threw everything against Lee, but his opponent proved to be tough and always countered each of Wusstig's attacks.

At one point in the third round, Lee seemed to be headed for a victory when he pinned Wusstig to the ground and pounded away. Wusstig, however, managed to hang on and survived the beating he received when he was saved by the bell.

Both fighters showed signs of fatigue in the last two rounds as each chose to be more cautious with their attacks and patiently waited for any opening that could give them the chance to end the bout by submission. They showed their defensive skills as neither of them had the chance to exploit any chink in their armor, putting the judges' scorecards in play. The loss was Lee's fourth in 11 professional bouts that included five wins and two draws.

"I had a hard time against Lee. I thank him for giving me a good fight and giving the fans what they deserved," said Wusstig after the match.

Earlier, Alvarez used almost two minutes of the first round to defeat Robin Eclavea of Vida BJJ Guam and keep the featherweight belt. He won by rear-naked choke at the 3:16 mark after the opening bell.

"I always try to stay calm in each of my fights. That has been my game plan. I don't want to make any predictions but I always go for the finish," said Alvarez, who fought for the first time after recovering from an injury.

His last match was against Mark Abelardo in Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 where he lost to the New Zealand bet by technical knockout almost two years ago. Eclavea suffered his third loss after beating Jeff Mesa via armbar submission in PXC 44 in June 2014.

Meanwhile, Manglona opened up the title matches when he dueled McKlane "The Game" Alfred of Vida MMA Guam for the flyweight belt.

Alfred, who was eight inches shorter than Manglona, quickly went to work and tried to force a submission win, but the CNMI bet managed to get out of the choke hold. And when Manglona found a lapse on Alfred's defense, he never backed down and ended the fight by referee stoppage with only 23 seconds left in the first round.

"I've the same game plan and that is to always try to get my opponents out of their comfort zones. I just waited for the moment and when I got the opportunity, I pounced," said Manglona.

It was Manglona's fifth straight win after losing his debut against Josh Duenas in Trench Warz 17: Night of Champions on Dec. 13, 2013, while Alfred dropped to 3-4, absorbing his third straight defeat since beating Mark Nuique in PXC 44 three years ago.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	85	63	.574	—
New York	82	66	.554	3
Tampa Bay	72	77	.483	13½
Baltimore	72	77	.483	13½
Toronto	70	79	.470	15½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	92	57	.617	—
Minnesota	77	71	.520	14½
Kansas City	73	75	.493	18½
Detroit	61	87	.412	30½
Chicago	60	88	.405	31½

West Division

Houston	90	58	.608	—
Los Angeles	76	72	.514	14
Seattle	74	75	.497	16½
Texas	72	76	.486	18
Oakland	65	83	.439	25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	89	59	.601	—
Miami	69	79	.466	20
Atlanta	67	80	.456	21½
New York	64	84	.432	25
Philadelphia	58	90	.392	31

Central Division

Chicago	82	66	.554	—
Milwaukee	78	70	.527	4
St. Louis	77	71	.520	5
Pittsburgh	68	81	.456	14½
Cincinnati	65	84	.436	17½

West Division

z-Los Angeles	96	52	.649	—
Arizona	87	62	.584	9½
Colorado	82	67	.550	14½
San Diego	65	83	.439	31
San Francisco	57	93	.380	40

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Half Gang's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, loses his balance as he dribbles in front of Big B's' Aaron Ogumoro during their boys U19 division game in the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A Ballers Bro player pulls up for a point-blanked shot during their boys U16 division title game against BoonkGang.

A BoonkGang player fakes off the defense of a Ballers Bro player.

LeAir Ballers' Kenji Abobo, left, drives baseline against Mix Breed's Coby Santos in their boys U19 game.

Mix Breed's Coby Santos, left, tries to barrel his way over the defense of LeAir Ballers' Keeanu Diaz.

Mix Breed's N-Nes Siech, left, unloads an acrobatic shot in front of LeAir Ballers' Keeanu Diaz.

A V-God player, left, takes off for a layup against a Warriors defender in their boys U19 division match.

Big B's' Angelo Factor beats two Half Gang players in the battle for the loose ball.

Indians clinch second straight AL Central title

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

New jersey aims to put NBA fans front and center

PAGE 25

Champs defend division titles

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Reigning titlists Robert "The Deal" Wusstig, Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, and Jordan "The Machine" Manglona successfully defended their respective weight division belts after dispatching their opponents in last Saturday's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The three title matches served as the highlights of a stacked card of 12 bouts, including an exhibition kickboxing bout between 11-year-olds Luis "TwoTwo" Litulumar of TrenchTech Saipan and William "Pretty Boy" King of Team Tinian.

While Alvarez and Manglona only used up one round to fend off their respective foes' bid to snatch their titles, Wusstig of God Will MMA had to grind things out against challenger Min Gu Lee of Korean Top Team, winning by split decision.

Wusstig needed the full five rounds to foil Lee's attempt of bringing the TrenchTech lightweight belt back to Seoul, South Korea. He won by split decision on scores of 49-46, 47-48, 49-46, to improve his fight record to 6-10.

See CHAMPS on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Guam's Rob Wussitg, left, blocks a knee kick from South Korean challenger Min Gu Lee during their lightweight title match in last Saturday's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

BBB takes opener in IT&E/Blue Haus caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand drew first blood in the 2nd Invitational IT&E/Blue Haus Friendly Basketball League after outclassing Vendetta, 93-84, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Four BBB players broke into double figures to give their team a good start in the 12-squad field sponsored by IT&E. Ronnel Gamboa led BBB with his 25 points, while Hal Spott chipped in 16 in his debut in the league, while Peter Ariar also made a good impression in his first game in the tournament after chipping in 13. Veteran Erlan Lansang was the third player to score in twin digits for BBB with his 11, while three of his teammates combined for 23 more points for the squad's balance scoring.

Vendette, on the other hand,

See BBB on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Batang Bear Brand's Erlan Lansang, left, is blocked by Vendetta's Gino Libuw during the second quarter of their game in the IT&E/Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Teen Ayuyus humbled by Indons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Boys National Team was overwhelmed by Indonesia, 18-0, during the second game in Group G of the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Saturday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Teen Ayuyus held their ground on defense in the early goings of the game before midfielder Mochammad Supriadi opened Indonesia's scoring in the ninth minute. Supriadi's goal sparked the Indons' offense as they built a 6-0 halftime edge. Indonesia then played no let up in the second half, adding 12 more goals to rout the CNMI.

Supriadi went on to complete a hat trick in their first game, as he drilled two more goals in the second half (46th and 90th minute). Amiruddin Bagus duplicated Supriadi's output, firing all his goals in the first half (13th, 25th, and 42nd minute).

Another Indon forward Sutan Armandoondriano came off the bench, reporting for duty in the 46th minute and lighting up the board in the 49th, 63rd, 65th, 67th, and 82nd minute.

See TEEN on Page 26

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PHOTO
The CNMI's Jason Quimzon, left slides to kick the ball out, while his two teammates catch up on defense against Indonesia's Amiruddin Bagus Alfikri during the first half of their game in Group G of the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Saturday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.